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Clarke pips Hague in second vote

Tory rivals head for photo-finish

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

KENNETH CLARKE was the surprise victor in the second round of the Tory leadership contest last night, opening the way to a nailbiting final run-off against William Hague tomorrow.

The Shadow Chancellor polled 64 votes, two more than Mr Hague, while John Redwood was eliminated in spite of increasing his vote to 38.

A jubilant Mr Clarke was suddenly back in a race that some of his supporters believed he was almost certain to lose. And Mr Redwood was left as possible kingmaker, with many of his supporters waiting for a lead from him on how they should vote in the last round. He will decide today who he will vote for.

Last night he met both Mr Clarke and Mr Hague, and the intriguing prospect of Mr Clarke offering him the post of Shadow Chancellor in a previously unthinkable Left-Right "dream ticket" was being seriously floated by supporters of both men. The Clarke camp claimed that at least ten previous Redwood backers, including Teresa Gorman, had indicated that they would come over to him. Others are expected to abstain.

Peter Lilley, who switched to Mr Hague after the first round, is believed to be in line to be Shadow Chancellor if Mr Hague wins.

Mr Hague had been widely expected to finish in front of Mr Clarke in the second round, but his bandwagon appeared to have slowed after his suggestion at a meeting of Tory MPs on Monday night that Mr Clarke would have to agree to rule out joining a single currency for ten years if he was to serve in his Shadow Cabinet. Some rightwingers said that made it impossible for Mr Clarke to serve in the Shadow Cabinet and that the party could not afford to have him outside it.



Clarke promising a "broad-based team"

How Tory MPs voted	
Kenneth CLARKE	64
William HAGUE	62
John REDWOOD	38

Mr Hague nevertheless remained the favourite to achieve a narrow victory over Mr Clarke after what Mr Redwood predicted would be a gripping third round.

Within minutes of yesterday's result, Mr Redwood announced that both Mr Clarke and Mr Hague had already telephoned him. He said: "Kenneth Clarke got in first. I suppose you could say that Kenneth Clarke was a little bit better organised than William Hague, which might be a reason to vote for him. I haven't yet made up my mind — there is now a very difficult decision to make."

The Hague camp was privately disappointed that their man had not finished in front and even alleged that some Redwood supporters had backed Mr Clarke to do down Mr Hague. There has been bad blood between the two Eurosceptic camps: some Redwood supporters doubt Mr Hague's rightwing credentials and several have said that they will go for the "big hitter" Mr Clarke.

Mr Hague added 21 votes — fewer than expected — to his first round tally, while Mr Clarke picked up 15 of the votes that had gone to Peter Lilley and Michael Howard in the first round. Mr Redwood improved his tally by 11.

If Mr Redwood were to endorse Mr Clarke, it would be seen as sweet revenge by some of his supporters, who accused Mr Howard and Mr Lilley of betrayal when they backed Mr Hague after dropping out last week. They claimed that there had been an understanding between the three camps that the most successful among them in the first ballot should have the support of the other two in the later rounds.

Mr Clarke now needs to convert exactly half Mr Redwood's supporters to secure the 83 votes needed for outright victory.

He said he was delighted by the outcome; he now had the "overwhelming" support of the party in Parliament and in the country at large. "The Conservative Party now faces a clear choice. I hope the Conservative Party will unite round me to fight Labour."

"I will put together a broad-based team drawing on every strand of opinion within the party. Under my leadership the Conservative Party will quickly be able to take on the Labour Party and go on to win the next election."

Mr Hague also proclaimed himself well satisfied with the outcome of the second ballot. "I think I now have the momentum and support to win the ballot on Thursday. That is what I will set out to do," he said. "And then I will set about the task of leading this party and uniting the party including all strands of opinion within it."

Peter Riddell, page 2
Leading article, page 19

Millennium festival on verge of collapse

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

The Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich is in danger of collapse as concern grows over the financial viability of the scheme.

Tony Blair and a small Cabinet group will meet tomorrow to decide whether to allow construction work to start on the centrepiece of the exhibition, a £20 million dome designed by the architect Sir

Richard Rogers. The Prime Minister and his colleagues will discuss a £580 million plan submitted by Millennium Central, which is responsible for fleshing out a blueprint for the grand scheme by the Millennium Commission.

Downing Street sources emphasised last night that the decision was too close to call. "It is in the balance. The overriding question is whether it is going to work."

Nigel Lawson, page 17
Letters, page 19

Oxford votes for business school

Oxford dons accepted plans for a business school and a £20 million donation from the Syrian-born benefactor Wafic Said. The 342 to 55 majority in Congregation came four days before Mr Said's deadline for withdrawing his offer if agreement could not be reached. Page 6

Heavy hitters

Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, will meet the Australian Mark Philippoussis, the fastest server in the world, in the first round of Wimbledon, which begins on Monday. Tim Henman, the British No 1, plays Daniel Nestor of Canada. Page 48



The Prime Minister trying out his seven-speed customised Eurocycle yesterday

Freewheeling to the front

By Charles Bremner

TONY BLAIR showed off his youthful vigour in Amsterdam yesterday, pedalling his way to the front of a pack of EU leaders as they tried bicycles given to them by the mayor.

The Prime Minister seemed intent on beating his colleagues when they were presented with their transport — deluxe models in the Dutch "sit-up-and-beg" tradition.

After being warned to steer clear of tram track grooves, Mr Blair leapt on to his bike and sped off, followed by Lionel Jospin, a regular cyclist in Paris. Wim Kok, the summit host, came next, with Jean-Luc Dehaene, the portly

Belgian Prime Minister, puffing behind. Goran Persson, the Swedish leader, brought up the rear of the first pack. Romano Prodi of Italy, another keen cyclist, also joined in enthusiastically with José María Aznar of Spain.

The 100-metre canal-side excursion was not, however, to the taste of Helmut Kohl of Germany, President Chirac or Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, who preferred to keep their dignity intact and walk to lunch.

The two-wheeled gifts were intended to symbolise the wholesome traditions of The Netherlands and offer a sou-

venir of Europe's bicycling mecca. They were hardly examples of the people's transport, however, since they were £400 customised models, emblazoned with the European stars. The Union brand machines have seven-speed, hub-mounted gears as well as drum brakes, built-in locks, comfortable "royal" saddles, refreshment bottles, toolkits and baggage racks.

Mr Blair is to give his machine to HAPA, a London-based charity that builds adventure playgrounds for disabled children.

Leading article, page 19

Big bangers face ban under tighter fireworks law

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE Government is to raise the minimum age for buying fireworks from 16 to 18 under proposals to be announced tomorrow, which will also ban the sale of large bangers and other dangerous fireworks to the public.

Nigel Griffiths, Consumer Affairs Minister, wants the new laws to be in force before this year's Bonfire Night celebrations. He will allow groups that

mount organised displays to continue to use the large fireworks, provided the organisers have appropriate safety training.

A Whitehall source said last night: "Ministers are also interested in banning small bangers. They frighten the elderly, are frequently thrown at pets by unruly youths and are not used in public displays. But they may need to consult more widely on this and they could be around for another year."

Mr Griffiths is to be joined tomorrow for the launch of the proposals by Ruth Hattersley, widow of David Hattersley, the headmaster who was killed last year after a firework exploded in his face during a school display.

Mr Griffiths is to hold a three-month consultation with firework manufacturers and retailers. The regulations will be enforced by trading standards officers who will bring prosecutions against shops that break the law.

Ministers also hope to introduce much tighter checks on the import of fireworks to keep out those that contravene British safety laws.

Mr Griffiths wants to reduce the number of injuries caused by fireworks. In December aerial shells and maroons were banned after three deaths last year.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents reported a total of 428 accidents at family or private firework parties last year compared with 263 five years ago.

Summit ends on sour note in row over EU voting rules

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN AMSTERDAM

EUROPEAN leaders struggled late into the night to hammer out a complicated deal over power-sharing, defence and other European Union reforms needed to clear the way to a new version of the Maastricht treaty.

In a repeat of the marathon negotiating session that produced the 1992 treaty, the 15 were at loggerheads over half a dozen issues still blocking the "treaty of Amsterdam". The sour mood at the EU summit last night contrasted with the relief on Monday when France and Germany patched up their quarrel over monetary union.

However, the new dual French leadership of President Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister, was thrown off balance yesterday after one of their own ministers suggested France might not join monetary union.

Pierre Moscovici, Minister for Europe and a former opponent of the euro, said France would decide whether to join after reviewing its public finances. An embarrassed M Jospin disowned M Moscovici and said: "I am totally in favour of the single currency, and of launching the single currency on time."

In the most politically sensitive argument of the summit, the smaller nations were resisting pressure from Britain, France and Germany to change the EU voting rules. This is aimed at ensuring that the big states retain their clout when the EU opens itself to the nations of the former communist bloc.

The big states insist that beefing up their vote is the price for agreeing to the smaller states' demands that each member state should have a commissioner in Brussels.

After winning an opt-out from a move to lift all border

controls, Tony Blair was holding out on two fronts last night. Along with Austria, Finland, Sweden and Ireland, he was resisting a Franco-German drive to commit the EU to acquiring a defence role. Mr Blair called the scheme an "ill-judged transplant". Britain insists that nothing must undermine Nato's role as Europe's defence organisation.

Mr Blair, whose team already deems the summit a big success for Britain, was also insisting that a new scheme for creating a "multi-speed" system in Europe must be subject to unanimous voting. Dutch officials said Britain seemed willing to compromise provided there was a tight limit to the areas in which EU states could practise the new "flexibility".

Britain's firm stand on several points was the subject of sniping from Belgian, Italian and other ministers last night as their leaders prepared for a long night of haggling. Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, said Britain's resistance to the new frontier-free Europe and its accompanying security system had put a damper on the whole treaty negotiation.

Spain also raised strong objections to a deal being worked out with the Commission to curb the practice of "quota-hopping" by non-British fishermen.

The fishing compromise, which takes the form of a declaration and is separate from the EU treaty, includes rules under which vessels fishing on the British quota must unload part of their catches in British ports. Madrid says the deal carries no legal weight.

"Son of Maastricht", page 13
Simon Jenkins, page 18

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Scottish play occupies centre stage as Tory party tragedy unfolds

As the Tory Party bleeds, there has been an atmosphere at Westminster this week not unlike that surrounding a bad motorway smash. Outside Committee Room 14 yesterday, media folk and bystanders stood and gawped. Within, the Conservative Party lay wounded.

The predominant feelings were pain and doubt. MPs whispered in knots or slipped in and out to know the latest and to vote.

Passers-by hung ghoulishly around, speculating and mut-

tering. When the door briefly opened we tried to peer in. Downstairs in the Chamber the scene served as a metaphor for the agonies which will face the Tories' new Leader. Yesterday was Scottish Questions. There were no Scottish Tories.

It is not just that the Party no longer represent Scotland and Wales: they no longer represent cities, either. Labour MP Norman Godman (Greenock & Inverclyde) described the Principal Opposition as "a rural English Party."

"Rural and suburban"

would be fairer. Among the Tories I recognised the Members for Sevenoaks, Cotswold, Chipping Barnet, Maldon & Chelmsford E, North Essex, West Derbyshire, Staffordshire S, Surrey SW, Horsham, Skipton & Rippon, Bromley & Chislehurst, Worthing West, Louth & Horncastle, Devizes... the list could be an extract from the *Property* pages of *Country Life*.

But Tories were determined to fly the flag. Putting in "prayer cards" to reserve seats, they foiled an attempt by the minority parties to



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

occupy the Front Bench and Dispatch Box.

Donald Dewar, Labour's new Scottish Secretary (he called the Scots Liberal Democrats' Leader, Jim Wallace, "my Hon Friend" - an interesting slip), shared Mr Wallace's amusement at the Tory plight.

Prayer cards? "They're going to need the power of

prayer," said Dewar, "some of them are on their knees at the moment." Everyone laughed.

The most indignant opposition was provided by the Scottish National Party, their bright-eyed Leader, Alex Salmond, scolding about an Amsterdam deal for Scottish fishermen.

The Liberal Democrats, compromised by their associ-

ation with Labour, fall awkwardly between two stools: are they really challenging the Government, or just asking helpful supplementaries?

The Tories' predicament was odd. From their front and back benches came sharp questions which had Mr Dewar's unimpressive ministerial team flailing.

Bernard Jenkin (Essex N) tripped junior minister Sam Galbraith with an enquiry about unannounced health spending plans for Scotland.

"They're well laid out, well laid out," stammered Gal-

braith. Alan Clark (C, Kensington & Chelsea) relayed the astonishing claim that a Hyundai investment attracted to Scotland was costing the taxpayer £120,000 per job created. Dewar seemed ill at ease, tried to laugh it off, and failed.

Francis Maude (Horsesham) winded Malcolm Chisholm with a question about corruption in Glasgow Govan. Sir Peter Tapsell (Louth & Horncastle) heard no reply to an enquiry about extra spend-

ing in Scotland, and nor did Ann Winterton (Congleton). Her husband, Nicholas, stumped minister Henry McLeish when he asked why 72,000 Macclesfield electors get just one MP - himself - when only 55,000 elect the average Scottish Member.

In *Hansard* the Tory assault will read convincingly. The reality was different. Ministers shrug at Tory questions, give bad answers, but do not care if they are bested. The Tory party lacks not arguments - but self-respect.



William Hague and his supporters Michael Howard, Gillian Shephard and Peter Lilley; and their rivals, Kenneth Clarke, with his supporters, including Stephen Dorrell, Sir Norman Fowler and Michael Heseltine

Redwood's 'barmy army' may have last laugh in leadership contest

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory MPs long mocked by their enemies in the party as John Redwood's barmy army today hold the key to the leadership contest.

At least half of the 38 MPs who voted for John Redwood in yesterday's second ballot of the contest will, in tomorrow's final round, follow his example and back the candidate he anoints. Mr Redwood, while mocked by many MPs as an unelectable extremist, has earned almost fanatical loyalty from some of his supporters.

After the first ballot, Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, who withdrew from the contest, were unable to march large contingents of their own supporters into Mr Hague's camp. But Mr Redwood can deliver his men and women in round three.

Many Redwood supporters are enraged by the Howard

and Lilley deal to bolster Mr Hague in the second ballot. The move could yet damage Mr Hague in the horsetrading before the final ballot.

For years Kenneth Clarke has been a hate figure of the Eurosceptics, and they now blame the Tories' election defeat on his refusal to oppose British membership of a single European currency.

But many had already decided last night to dismiss worries over Europe and back him because he is a heavy-hitter with long experience at the top.

Relations between the Redwood and the Hague campaign headquarters are dire. Mr Hague's friends believe that Mr Redwood's team were behind a spate of unsubstantiated rumours that the media were about to run exposés on his private life. It is a further bar to successful negotiations



Redwood: could hold key to final round

between the two men.

Even before the first round of voting, many people in the Redwood campaign had described Mr Hague as the real danger. They branded him as untried, untested, and not a genuine rightwinger. Mr Clarke may be on the left but many Redwood supporters regard him as principled and a

strong leader. The word went up early on from the Redwood campaign headquarters last night: we have to stop Hague.

On cue, Teresa Gorman, the MP for Billericay who had the whip withdrawn because of her opposition to Maastricht, was one of the first to switch to Mr Clarke. "We need a big hitter," she said. "John Redwood and Ken Clarke were the only big hitters on offer today. It's why I will back Clarke," she said.

One of the few publicly to declare for Mr Hague was John Whittingdale, the former political secretary to Baroness Thatcher, who said: "I supported John Redwood because I agreed with his views. It is clear to me William Hague is closest to those views." Gerald Howard, another MP close to Lady Thatcher, was expected to support Mr Hague.

Sir Richard Body, the MP for Boston and Skegness who resigned the whip in protest at

the Maastricht treaty, has also decided to back Mr Clarke. Andrew Robathan, who succeeded Nigel Lawson as the MP for Blaby, and is of the same generation as Mr Hague, may also vote for Mr Clarke.

Redwood loyalists such as Julian Lewis Owen Paterson, Oliver Letwin, John Wilkinson, and David Wilshire were also waiting to take their lead from Mr Redwood. Mr Lewis said: "I will wait and decide when John has made his mind up." Another key influence will be Iain Duncan Smith, Mr Redwood's highly respected campaign manager, who is an arch-Eurosceptic.

Mr Duncan Smith will make up his own mind independently of Mr Redwood but he has a strong following. He said: "John is in a powerful position. He has run an honourable campaign. Despite all the vilification of John Redwood as an extremist, he has

now emerged as the only candidate. Both sides need him because he is the man who can unite the party."

James Cran, who switched from Mr Howard to Mr Redwood, said: "It is a classic dilemma. One candidate has the right agenda but I am not sure he is a heavy-hitter and the other one is a heavy-hitter but has the wrong agenda."

John Townsend, the chairman of the 92 group of right-wing MPs, said: "The centre right will back William Hague."

Angela Browning, who was one of the Redwood campaign managers, refused to say who she would support. "Do not make assumptions about how the core group which backed John Redwood will vote," she said. However, she described Mr Hague as a "nice young man" and Mr Clarke as a formidable politician.

Leading article, page 19

Can new leader unite and rule?

WHOEVER wins the Conservative leadership tomorrow, it will be less a coronation than the end of an elimination contest - a bruising game of musical chairs, played to the funeral march.

William Hague is still just the favourite, though less so than 24 hours ago, and he has a lot to do over the next 48 hours.

Kenneth Clarke has the initiative. So the margin either way could easily be in single figures. After all, Mr Clarke has been ahead on both rounds so far and he retains a sizeable lead among local Tories.

The second round was about as messy as it could be. It both underlined the extent of the divisions in the party, and showed the mistake of believing that it was simply a Left v Right battle.

This will be the first time in the six leadership elections since 1965 that the contest has gone into a third ballot. And there will be a feverish period of manoeuvring, lobbying and rumours of deals. There was talk in the Redwood camp last night of how to stop Mr Hague, and in the Clarke camp of Mr Redwood's "valuable" ideas. Quite a number on the right will back Mr Clarke, because they admire his fighting qualities and believe Mr Hague will not be a strong leader.

Whatever deals are done and however the Redwood vote split up, the result is likely to hinge on a dozen votes out of 164. That would

hardly be an overwhelming mandate. But Tory leaders have generally won their position by a small margin - and never on the scale of landlides enjoyed by Neil Kinnock, John Smith and Tony Blair.

Sir Edward Heath won 49.3 per cent of the vote on the first ballot in 1965, but this was so near an overall majority that Reginald

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Maudling (43.8 per cent) and Enoch Powell (4.9) dropped out.

In 1975, Margaret Thatcher forced out Sir Edward on the first ballot and then won 52.9 per cent on the second ballot against four others. In 1990, John Major won 49.7 per cent, prompting Michael Heseltine on 35.2 and Douglas Hurd on 15.1 per cent to stand down.

On Thursday night, there will be the usual appeals for unity. But they will be unconvincing unless the new leader can ensure that both pro-Europeans and sceptics serve on his frontbench team. That is how Mr Clarke is trying to trump Mr Hague, who has appeared a divisive rather than a unifying figure.

It is hardly the best prelude for a new leader. To paraphrase Norman Lamont, the new leader may be in office, but will he be in power?

PETER RIDDELL

How Tories lined up behind leadership contenders

TORY MPs are believed to have voted as follows in the second round of the leadership election:

□ For Kenneth Clarke:
Tony Baldry, Sir Paul Beresford, Virginia Bottomley, John Burtill, Kenneth Clarke, David Curry, Quentin Davies, Stephen Dorrell, Sir Peter Emery, Sir Norman Fowler, Alastair Goodlad, Damien Green, John Greenway, John Gummer, Douglas Hogg, Michael Heseltine, Sir Edward Heath, Sir Alan Haselhurst, Tom King, Michael Jack, Robert Jackson, Sir Peter Lloyd, Peter Luff, Sir David Madsen, John MacGregor, Michael Mates, Anne McIntosh, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Richard Ottaway, Andrew Rowe, Keith Simpson, Nicholas Soames, Sir John Stanley, Ian Taylor, Peter Temple-Morris,

Bob Walter, Sir Ray Whitney, Shaun Woodward, Sir George Young.
Former Howard supporters: David Davis, Andrew Lansley, John M Taylor.
Former Lilley supporters: Sir Patrick Cormack, Ann Widdecombe.
Former Redwood supporters: Michael Fabricant.
MPs whose previous support is unknown: Caroline Spelman, Peter Viggers, Eric Piddles, Edward Garner, Tim Boswell, Peter Atkinson.
Total 51. Unknown supporters in second round: 13

□ For William Hague:
Peter Ainsworth, Michael Antram, James Arbuthnot, David Atkinson, Peter Bottomley, Ian Bruce, James Clepperson, Michael

Clark, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Stephen Day, Alan Duncan, Nigel Evans, Cheryl Gillan, Roger Gale, James Gray, Dominic Grieve, David Heathcoat-Amory, William Hague, Nick Hawkins, Julie Kirkbride, Eleanor Laing, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Tim Loughton, Andrew Mackay, John Maples, Humfrey Malins, Malcolm Moss, Archie Norman, James Paice, Richard Page, David Prior, David Ruffley, Jonathan Sayeed, Sir Peter Tapsell, David Tredinnick, Michael Trend, Bowen Wells, Tim Yeo.
Former Howard supporters: Simon Burns, Graham Brady, David Lidington, Francis Maude, Tim Collins, Liam Fox, David Maclean, Michael Howard, Oliver Heald, Patrick McLoughlin, Sir Michael Colvin.
Former Lilley supporters: Gillian Shephard, David Willetts, Philip Hammond, Nicholas

Gibb, Robert Key, Richard Spring, Robert Syms, Andrew Tyrie, Peter Lilley.
MPs whose previous support is unknown: Crispin Blunt, Peter Brooks, Michael Fallon, Theresa May.
Total 62.
□ For John Redwood:
Julian Bricker, Angela Browning, Bill Cash, Iain Duncan Smith, Howard Flight, Christopher Gill, Teresa Gorman, John Hayes, Andrew Hunter, Julian Lewis, Oliver Letwin, Owen Paterson, John Redwood, Laurence Robertson, Marion Roe, Andrew Robathan, Richard Shepherd, Sir Teddy Taylor, John Townsend, Charles Wurdle, David Wilshire, John Wilkinson, Nicholas Winterton, Ann Winterton.
Former Howard supporters: Sir Michael Spicer, James Cran, Edward Leigh, Patrick

Nicholls, Sir Richard Body, Desmond Swayne, Christopher Chope, Gerald Howarth.
Former Lilley supporters: John Whittingdale, Eric Forth, David Amess, Piers Merchant, John Bercow.
MPs whose previous support is unknown: Alan Clark.
Total 38.
□ Undeclared MPs:
John Horan, John Major, Sir Sydney Chapman, Gary Streeter, Michael Lord, Anthony Stoen.
Former Howard supporters: David Faber, Sir Archibald Hamilton, Christopher Fraser.
Former Lilley supporters: Nigel Waterson, Bernard Jenkin, Nicholas St Aubyn, Brian Mawhinney.
Total 13 (all assumed to be Clarke supporters).

Councils to get £5bn for housing

By POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

LOCAL authorities will be allowed to spend billions of pounds on housing over the next five years, taking public expenditure above the Conservative-set limit that Labour promised to adopt in Government.

Up to 220,000 homes will be built or refurbished and as many as 65,000 jobs created under the policy, which was unveiled yesterday by Hilary

Armstrong, Housing Minister. The Government will effectively release, in phases, the estimated £5 billion made by local authorities from the sale of council houses since 1990. Under the Conservatives, councils were prevented from spending the money although they could use it for accounting purposes to offset their debts.

The Local Government Finance (Supplementary Credit Approvals) Bill will allow ministers to increase annual borrowing limits for those councils

that have "set aside" housing sale receipts.

In addition, the Government will make allowances for the level of housing need in particular local authority areas, so that councils with poor receipts but a significant shortage of homes will also be given permission for additional borrowing.

The details have yet to be finalised and will be the subject of a consultation document to be issued shortly. However, the amount of addi-

tional money which councils will be allowed to spend on housing and related projects in 1997-98 and 1998-99 will be announced by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in the Budget on July 2.

The Chartered Institute of Housing estimated that for every £1 billion released, 14,000 new homes could be built and 30,000 properties improved. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said such investment could create up to 13,000 new jobs.

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Guide who cut corners killed friend, court told

BY ADRIAN LEE

A PROFESSIONAL mountain guide skimped on safety during an expedition in the French Alps, causing his inexperienced companion to fall 120ft to his death, a court was told yesterday.

David Cuthbertson wrongly abandoned accepted climbing procedure as he and Gerry Hedley edged towards the summit of Tour Ronde, a 12,000ft peak in the Mont Blanc Massif, it was alleged.

Mr Hedley's son, Daniel, 6, who was born nine months after the tragedy, is claiming £100,000 damages in an action which could have serious implications for outdoor pursuits. It is the first time a guide has been sued over a climbing death.

Mr Hedley's wife, Lynda Woodroffe, 48, of Kilburn, north London, who initiated the claim, had been due to join

her husband on the climbing holiday the day after his death, when she planned to tell him that she was pregnant.

It was alleged that Mr Cuthbertson, 49, from Dore, Inverness, failed to provide a strong-enough anchor — or belay — on the ice face for his less-experienced companion. He used only one 6in ice screw when standard climbing practice demanded two.

The High Court was told that the two men were friends. Mr Hedley, 41, an art restorer for the Courtauld Institute who also lectured at the University of London, and his wife of six years had attended Mr Cuthbertson's wedding party a few months earlier.

Mr Hedley had paid the guide £500 for the seven-day walking and climbing holiday and had completed a few

ascents without incident. On July 21 they spent the night in a hut after a 1½-hour climb from the base of the mountain and then set out to scale a 350m section of ice and rock at 4,000 metres. The two climbers were roped together with Mr Cuthbertson in the lead, when the ice gave way and the guide fell, dragging Mr Hedley off his anchor on to rocks below in an area known as the Narrows.

The guide, who fractured his knee, described yesterday how he became worried during the ascent as sunshine threatened to melt snow directly above them and dislodge rocks.

He decided to abandon the two screw procedure to save time and allow them to move quickly across the mountain face to the safety of overhanging rock, 120ft away. Inserting and removing the extra screw would have taken another two minutes. "I chose to get out of the line of fire as quickly as possible."

His voice breaking with emotion, Mr Cuthbertson, who denies negligence, said: "Gerry Hedley was my friend. I regret the incident but I still think I took the right action to get us both out of the way."

Mr Cuthbertson said he thought the state of the ice was good and the risk of himself falling on the relatively easy terrain was slight. At the time, just before 8am, the pair were some 600ft from the summit but Mr Hedley was tiring and had slowed the climb which had begun at 4.15am in darkness.

Kieran Coonan, QC, for the plaintiff, said: "You compromised your safety and gambled with the life of Mr Hedley. That is what it boils down to isn't it? But Mr Cuthbertson denied he had acted in a lazy or careless way.



Gerry Hedley, right, who had hired his friend David Cuthbertson to act as his guide as they climbed Tour Ronde, a 12,000ft peak in the Mont Blanc Massif. The two climbers were roped together with Mr Cuthbertson in the lead, when the ice gave way

"I think it is the opposite. I took a deliberate decision not to waste time." He feared being struck by a falling rock and killed. He agreed that he was aware that if he fell the implications for his companion were potentially disastrous.

Mr Coonan said that the fall was caused by an ice slide, known as "dinner plating". At the time Mr Cuthbertson was edging across the mountain, 80ft above his friend, using his ice axe and crampon when "suddenly, without any warning, all the ice beneath him gave way — a large area — and slid down the mountain. Despite Mr Cuthbertson's best efforts he could not gain any purchase on the side of the mountain. The full force of Mr

Cuthbertson's body weight and the shock force was transmitted probably directly to the anchor and then to Mr Hedley. The anchor was yanked out and Mr Hedley was swept down the mountain. He was killed instantly."

was extremely concerned about the danger of rocks falling. Since the 1960s, global warming has affected the Alps badly. They are far more treacherous now. I believe the only reason I fell was because the ice was brittle and this is one of the results of the sun being so much hotter."

Allen Fyfe, an Everest and Eiger veteran and the author of *The Handbook of Climbing*, told the court that he disapproved of Mr Cuthbertson's decision. One

ice screw was not enough, he said. "He could have achieved speed by efficiency rather than cut corners." Alternatively, the guide could have constructed another anchor between the two men which would have slowed the fall.

Mrs Woodroffe told the court that she had liked Mr Cuthbertson. She was a keen climber herself but her husband was stronger and more daring. She agreed that her husband would have been well aware of the risks involved in climbing.

The trial continues.

Bus firm's sale 'aided by corrupt official'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CORRUPT bank official was rewarded with a £1 million bribe from the windfall profits earned when the privatised British Bus Company was sold, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Ian Harvey, a senior account manager with the First National Bank of Boston, has spent every penny of the £600,000 he received on account, said Richard Latham, QC, for the prosecution. Most of it went on the purchase of a £400,000 home.

The man who bribed Mr Harvey was Dawson Williams, then a director of British Bus, who received £9.4 million for his shares in the company, Mr Latham said.

Mr Williams, of Ringwood, Hampshire, and Mr Harvey, of Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, both deny conspiracy to corrupt between January 1992 and August 1994. Mr Harvey alone denies corruption relating to the £600,000.

Mr Latham said that three other directors of British Bus also became overnight millionaires but that there was nothing illegal in their gains.

He explained that from 1993 Mr Harvey helped Mr Williams and the British Bus company by issuing letters to the company auditors which effectively gave the company a "clean bill of health".

The letters stated that the First National Bank of Boston was prepared to make available any shortfall in cash flow requirements. "In other words you can have as much money as you need," Mr Latham said. The bank was never told about the letters.

The letters were of great help to the company and British Bus emerged as a very attractive entity indeed, Mr Latham said. In mid-1994 two companies specialising in venture capital made the offer for British Bus shares, making its directors millionaires overnight. The trial continues.



Lynda Woodroffe and her son Daniel Hedley, 6. She had not been able to tell her husband she was pregnant

Woman killed her four-year-old son by salt poisoning

BY RICHARD DUCE

FOUR doctors failed to detect that a four-year-old boy was slowly being poisoned by his mother who laced his drinks with lethal levels of salt, a court was told yesterday.

Caroline Lloyd had a severe personality disorder, similar to that of the convicted murderer Beverly Allitt, when over ten days she deliberately added high doses of salt to the fizzy drinks which eventually killed her son Christopher. She even prevented him from drinking fresh water, the court was told.

Lloyd, 26, was yesterday jailed for life after she admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. She suffers from Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy and her condition is so severe that psychiatrists decided it could not be treated in hospital.

While Lloyd's husband was at work, Christopher is thought to have been dosed in total with 125 grammes of salt which made him suffer vomiting, diarrhoea, and stomach cramps, Christopher Horton, QC, for the prosecution, told Oxford Crown Court.

Stuart Lloyd, Christopher's stepfather, became worried about the boy's health, and took him to four different GPs during the following week. None of them diagnosed the problem, and the boy was prescribed mild sedatives, and even antibiotics.

On one occasion, a day after the poisoning started in February last year, Christopher was taken to Newcross Hospital close to the family home in Wolverhampton, but discharged the next day after his system was flushed out. Mr Horton said: "Sadly, no blood test was taken whilst he was an in-patient. If it had been, it

would undoubtedly have shown a high level of salt."

Eventually, he was taken back to hospital nine days later, after collapsing at home. He died the next day without regaining consciousness.

Mr Horton said: "Salt poisoning is far from unknown but the age of the child in this case is unusual." Salt levels in Christopher's blood were 50 per cent above what is thought to be a safe level.

In interviews with police Lloyd said: "I never wanted him to die. I just wanted him to feel poorly. It was the only way I could cope. The salt made him sleep so that I could get some rest."

The court was told that Lloyd had had a difficult childhood and was placed in care from the age of 12. William Andrew-Jones, QC, for the defence, said: that she was "consumed by remorse".

Mr Justice Potts told her: "You continue to pose a substantial risk to children. Nothing I have heard guarantees that this risk can be avoided. You will not be released while you remain a danger."



Lloyd has a severe personality disorder

Boy, 14, is locked up for killing 82-year-old

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged 14 who murdered his friend's great-grandmother while drunk was detained without limit of time yesterday. David Millar killed Lucy Marshall, 82, with a single stab wound from her own breadknife.

Millar, of Cowdenbeath, Fife, pleaded guilty to the murder. The Crown accepted that an original charge of raping the woman be deleted, and a plea of not guilty to assaulting Mrs Marshall's home help and attempting to prevent her speaking to police, was also accepted.

The case was dealt with in minutes by Lord Cameron of Lochroom in the High Court in Edinburgh, unbeknown to the victim's family, who had turned up to see the killer sentenced. Mrs Marshall's daughters Isobel Campbell and Velma Ward said they were angry they had not been able to see the killer.

Mrs Ward said: "We are still in the dark about how and why my mother died. A lot of what we heard is just rumours. We were hoping to hear everything in court, but now we won't. It's heart-breaking not knowing what happened to my mum. We will have to go to our graves not knowing exactly what happened to her or why he killed her."

Millar had told police after killing Mrs Marshall, also from Cowdenbeath, that he had been drinking Buckfast, the tonic wine brewed by the Benedictine monks of Buckfast Abbey in Devon. The drink has been blamed for encouraging teenage alcoholism.

New rebuke for 'kissing judge'

A JUDGE who was made to apologise after referring to "niggers" in court was criticised by the Court of Appeal yesterday over his frequent interruptions during a fraud trial (Frances Gibb writes).

The appeal court overturned a three-year jail sentence imposed by Judge Crawford, QC, on a businessman convicted of a housing scam. The appeal judges ruled that his frequent interruptions and comments during the trial had made a clear impression on the jury. The

businessman, Colin Solomon, 39, from Gosforth, Newcastle, was freed after spending six months in jail. His former employer, Lee Major, 27, was jailed for a year but was released before the appeal because he had served half of his sentence.

During the trial at Newcastle Crown Court Mr Solomon was alleged to have been the brains behind a housing benefit swindle which made thousands of pounds. Yesterday he said that he was considering

whether to seek compensation: "Although I am free I have come back to a business disaster. The firm and partners are facing in excess of £1.5 million debts as a result of this."

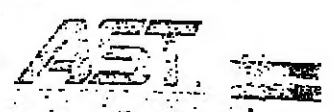
Judge Crawford was reprimanded and made to apologise by the Lord Chancellor's Department earlier this year for using the word "niggers" in court. He was nicknamed "the kissing judge" after he made a pass at a court usher five years ago, and was reprimanded for that, too.

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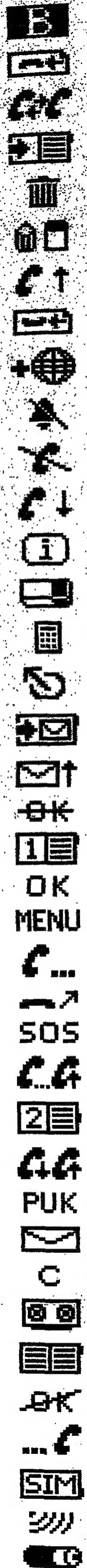
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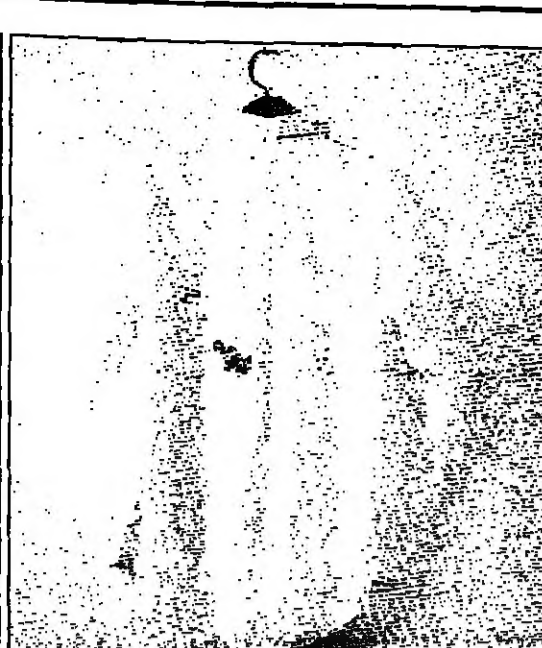
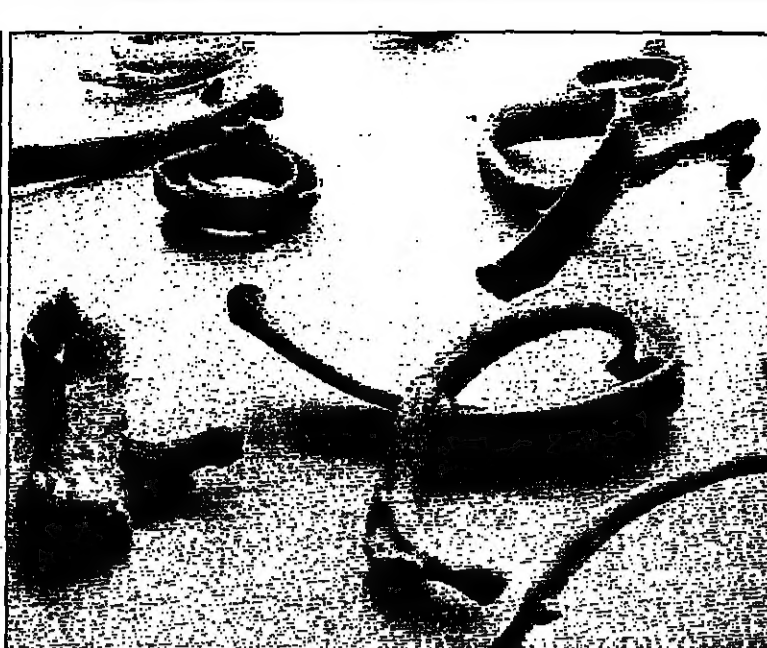
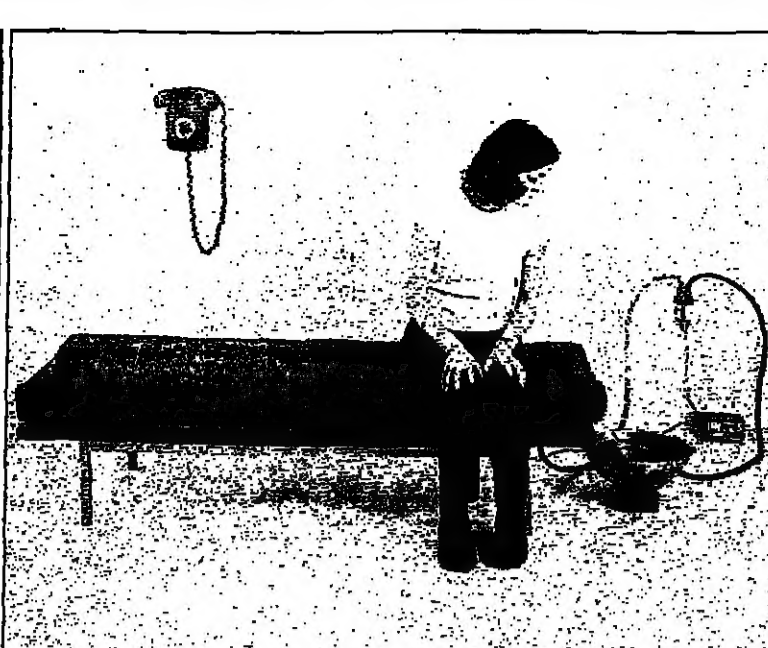
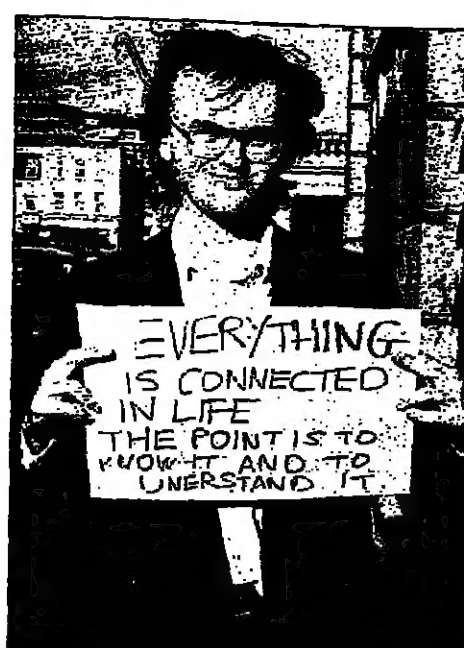
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Works by this year's four Turner Prize finalists include: Gillian Wearing's *Signs* (1992-93), Angela Bulloch's *Workbench* (1996), Christine Borland's *Bison-Bison* (1997), and Cornelia Parker's *Shirt burnt by a meteorite*

All-women shortlist takes Turner by surprise

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE judges for the £20,000 Turner Prize this year have again come up with a shortlist of artists who specialise in mind-boggling creations. The difference this time is that the four finalists, all conceptual artists, are women. Last year they were men.

After Damien Hirst's dead animals in formaldehyde and Vong Phaophanit's room filled with rice, the prize is no stranger to controversy.

Cornelia Parker has exhibited a man's white shirt on a coat-hanger and dangled bits of silver cutlery from the White Cliffs of Dover. Christine Borland's works include a human skeleton. Gillian Wearing's most recent work, called *10-16*, was a video of adult actors lip-synching to a soundtrack of adolescents. A dwarf in a bath was shown

saying he would like to kill his mother. The fourth finalist is Angela Bulloch, who once invited the public to sit on a bench and watch brown liquid flow through a tube.

Critics of the prize immediately poured scorn on the selection. Some attacked the jurors for being politically correct in choosing women after last year's all-male shortlist. Others lamented the exclusion of painters or sculptors who make things themselves. A number felt that they had seen it all before: barriers were broken long ago by Marcel Duchamp's urinal of 1917 and Joseph Beuys's man's felt suit of 1970.

Danny Katz, a dealer in Old Master sculpture and a collector of contemporary art, was angry. "I hate it," he said. Devising a conceptual work of his



The artists on the shortlist, from left: Gillian Wearing, Angela Bulloch, Christine Borland and Cornelia Parker

own, he recommended that some artist lay down a canvas on a pavement and dive into it from a multi-storey building. "He could call it 'self-portrait' and put an end to it. One less artist to think about. One less artist to stop creating this absolute rubbish."

Philomena Davidson-Da-

vies, of the Royal Society of Sculptors, said: "Is this really a true reflection of the talent out there?" She dismissed artists who took a ready-made object and "plopped it down to represent a notional idea".

David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, said: "It's the usual freak show." He criticised the

Tate for promoting a "state academy" of such artists. One observer asked: "Are there no boundaries?" The criteria seems to be the ability to shock rather than creating a work of art in the conventional sense — something of quality. There is nothing original about taking an everyday object out of

its original context." Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery and chairman of the jury, said: "It is fair to say that the jury had no plans to make a shortlist of four women artists any more than last year, when they formed a shortlist of four male ones." The choice reflected personal

enthusiasms, he said. Cornelia Parker, who exhibited the shirt, is best known for collaborating with Tilda Swinton on a work that involved the actress sleeping for a week in the Serpentine Gallery. The Tate judges noted how "her means of transformation" had included throwing things off the White Cliffs and running them over with a steamroller to create "symbolic representations, evocative and rich in possible associations".

The artist explained: "I like to kill something off symbolically then resurrect it, blowing things up, throwing things off cliffs, having trains and a steamroller run over things."

For the judges, Gillian Wearing's work reveals the "strange or disturbing realities that lie beneath the apparently calm surface of everyday appearances". Christine Borland's work with bones

was described as "notably imaginative and original, with results which are sometimes shocking and always haunting in effect."

Angela Bulloch uses a wide range of media, including mechanical and electronic devices such as floor-mats that activate taped voices as people stand on them. Her work reveals people's incurable urge to control each other, the judges said. She uses sensing devices to feed back the spectator's own actions into the work. The judges spoke of her "symbolic representations of the limited freedoms of the individual in society".

The winner of the prize will be announced at the Tate on December 2. An exhibition by the short-listed artists will be shown at the gallery from October 29 to January 18.

Sacred cows, page 18

GP uses cell as surgery for violent patient

By IAN MURRAY

A GP has accepted a patient on to his list providing that consultations take place in a police cell fitted with a panic button. The case highlights growing violence against medical staff, with at least 1,000 GPs assaulted every year.

The issue is to be raised today at the British Medical Association's annual conference for GPs, which is expected to deplore the lack of secure treatment facilities for violent patients.

Christopher Trower, GP medical adviser to Buckinghamshire Health Authority, agreed to see the violent patient in a cell because none of the seven practices in Aylesbury, where the man lived, was prepared to treat him.

Last autumn the patient was jailed for eight months for causing actual bodily harm and damaging a surgery. "For the past three years no practice in the town would have him voluntarily, so he was being revolved between them every week," Dr Trower said. "He would turn up at about five in the evening and storm into the surgery, interrupting consultations. He was usually drunk and violent."

Dr Trower took the man on to his own list. "We have had three appointments so far and they have all passed off peacefully," he said.

A BMA survey last year found that 1,000 patients a year are removed from GPs' lists because of violence.

Football Association tests nine-year-olds for drugs

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOOTBALL players as young as nine are being routinely tested by the Football Association for drugs, including cocaine, a national police conference was told yesterday.

The youngsters are screened as part of a programme of random testing for all 2,000 professional players, 1,445 teenage trainees and 10,000 promising junior players attending training schools run by clubs. One of the targets for the tests is 12 to 13-year-olds because recreational drug use is starting at an increasingly young age. Players under 16 are tested only with parental approval and will be counselled about drug use rather than face disciplinary action. So far the youngest player found to be using drugs was 17. But FA officials were also called in when a 12-year-old in a club training scheme was discovered by police to be using cannabis.

The tests, which began in the 1994-95 season, were

described yesterday by FA officials at a conference on drug problems organised by the Association of Chief Police Officers at Hinkley, Leicestershire. Alan Hodgson, head of the programme, said they were intended to deter players, who were often role models for the young.

Mr Hodgson said the FA introduced the tests to check for performance-enhancing drugs but officials do not think this is a problem. He said the main concern was recreational drug use. Mr Hodgson said in the first season 272 tests were carried out and there were 12 positive results. These included six professional players and six youth players. In the second season the same number of tests were done but there were seven positive results, including four professionals. In the latest season the number of tests increased to 500 and there were five positive tests, including two professional players. Two cocaine

users were banned from playing.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and the national police spokesman on drugs, told the conference that he did not believe any European country would relax its drug laws in the next decade. George Howarth, the Junior Home Office Minister, said the Government would consider neither legalisation nor decriminalisation of any drug.

But Howard Parker, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester and an expert on drug research, called for a drugs education programme for the over thirties so that there could be a debate about drug policy without hysteria. He said programmes aimed at stopping the young using drugs cost £280 million a year yet almost half of all 16-year-olds have tried drugs. Britain has the biggest youth drug market in Europe.

Princess extends campaign

By TOM RHODES

DIANA, Princess of Wales, took her new-found diplomatic skills to Washington yesterday where she was joined by Elizabeth Dole, president of the American Red Cross, in her international campaign for a worldwide ban on landmines.

The Princess and Mrs Dole, wife of the former Republican presidential candidate, were holding talks before an evening gala at the National Museum of Women in the Arts to raise money for landmine victims.

Although the issue has become something of a *cause célèbre* in America, attracting luminaries such as General Norman Schwarzkopf, the Gulf War commander, the Princess is unlikely to find much support among senior government officials. Neither President Clinton nor Vice-President Al Gore is prepared to oppose military advisers at the Pentagon who believe the mines protect troops.

Religious teenagers take permissive line on sex

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THERE is little difference between the views of young Roman Catholics, Anglicans, atheists and agnostics on issues of sexual morality, according to a report to be published next month.

Most young people, including Catholics, believe there is nothing wrong with artificial birth control, sex before marriage or practising homosexuality, the report says.

The survey of A-level students aged 16-18 will make depressing reading for those in the churches attempting to uphold traditional standards of sexual morality. It suggests that on issues such as contraception and premarital sex, the churches are fighting a losing battle, and that a large gulf exists between what they preach and what youngsters practise.

Peter Vardy, a philosopher and theologian at London University, surveyed 3,000 teenagers across England and Scotland. They were asked to

indicate whether they belonged to a religious group.

Asked whether it was morally wrong for an unmarried couple in a long-term relationship to make love, agnostics and atheists took the most liberal view, as expected, with nearly all responding "no".

But 85.4 per cent of the Catholics and 80 per cent of Anglicans also said it was not wrong. The figures were similar for other religions, which were included as one group under "Muslims, Jews, Hindus and others".

More than nine out of ten Catholics, Anglicans, agnostics and atheists did not agree that artificial birth control was always morally wrong. There was more uncertainty over the "morning-after pill", nearly half the Catholics surveyed said that it was morally worse than a barrier method of contraception.

On adultery, the religious teenagers had a stricter moral code than their peers. Half the

atheists surveyed thought there were circumstances that could make adultery morally right, compared to less than a third of Anglicans and Catholics. The survey, *The Puzzle of Sex*, will be published next month by HarperCollins.

Bishops in the Church of England will issue a statement tomorrow warning that they will oppose amendments to a resolution on homosexuality when it is debated at the General Synod in York next month. The resolution commends the bishops' 1991 report *Issues in Human Sexuality*, which insists on celibacy for homosexual clergy but takes a more liberal line for the laity. The motion calls for the report to be discussed in dioceses.

Evangelical and Catholics in the Church have long been dissatisfied with the report. At least one amendment has been tabled demanding that the synod reaffirm traditional biblical morality, which opposes practising homosexuality.

Record crowd crowns Queen Mother's Ascot visit

THERE was warm applause and a few tears from the record number of racegoers at the first day of Royal Ascot yesterday as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother abandoned her familiar motorised buggy to walk through the crowds to the Royal Enclosure (Emma Wilkins writes).

Accompanied by the Princess Royal, the Queen Mother chatted to owners and trainers before walking 300 yards from the paddock to the Royal Box

without sticks or assistance. The Queen Mother had used the buggy to arrive at the paddock but waved it aside for the return journey.

Members of the royal party arrived at the racecourse in the traditional carriage procession. The Queen, in a pale pink lightweight wool coat dress, trimmed with white piping and a hat of white straw with pale pink band and a small bunch of lilies of the valley, shared the first carriage with

the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester.

The Queen Mother, who was wearing a mauve coat over a floral dress, was in the second carriage with the Princess Royal, who was dressed in an electric-blue outfit. Princess Margaret and the Duchess of Gloucester followed in the third carriage.

The crowd of 49,088 was a record for an opening day, and 7.6 per cent up on last year. Before the Queen

arrived, a man wanted by the police was recognised in a car driving down Ascot High Street. An officer knocked on the window and asked the four occupants to get out, but the car took off at speed.

Tariq Javed, who was wanted on a criminal warrant by officers in Reading, was arrested with two others after a three-mile chase.

Racing reports, page 42

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Oxford dons vote to accept plans for business school

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD dons voted overwhelmingly yesterday to accept plans for a business school and with it a £20 million donation from the Syrian-born benefactor Wafic Said.

The 342 to 55 majority in Congregation, the dons' parliament, came just four days before Mr Said's deadline for withdrawing his offer if agreement could not be reached. In November a stormy meeting of Congregation threw out the original plans amid concern over its siting on university sports fields. Mr Said's background as an arms-deal negotiator and his level of control over the business school.

The university came back yesterday with a new site and watered down Mr Said's influence on the business school foundation, which nevertheless remains the main focus of opposition.

Dr Peter North, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, said that the 7-1 majority demonstrated the university's "wholehearted support" for the £45 million



Said: previous plan had been rejected

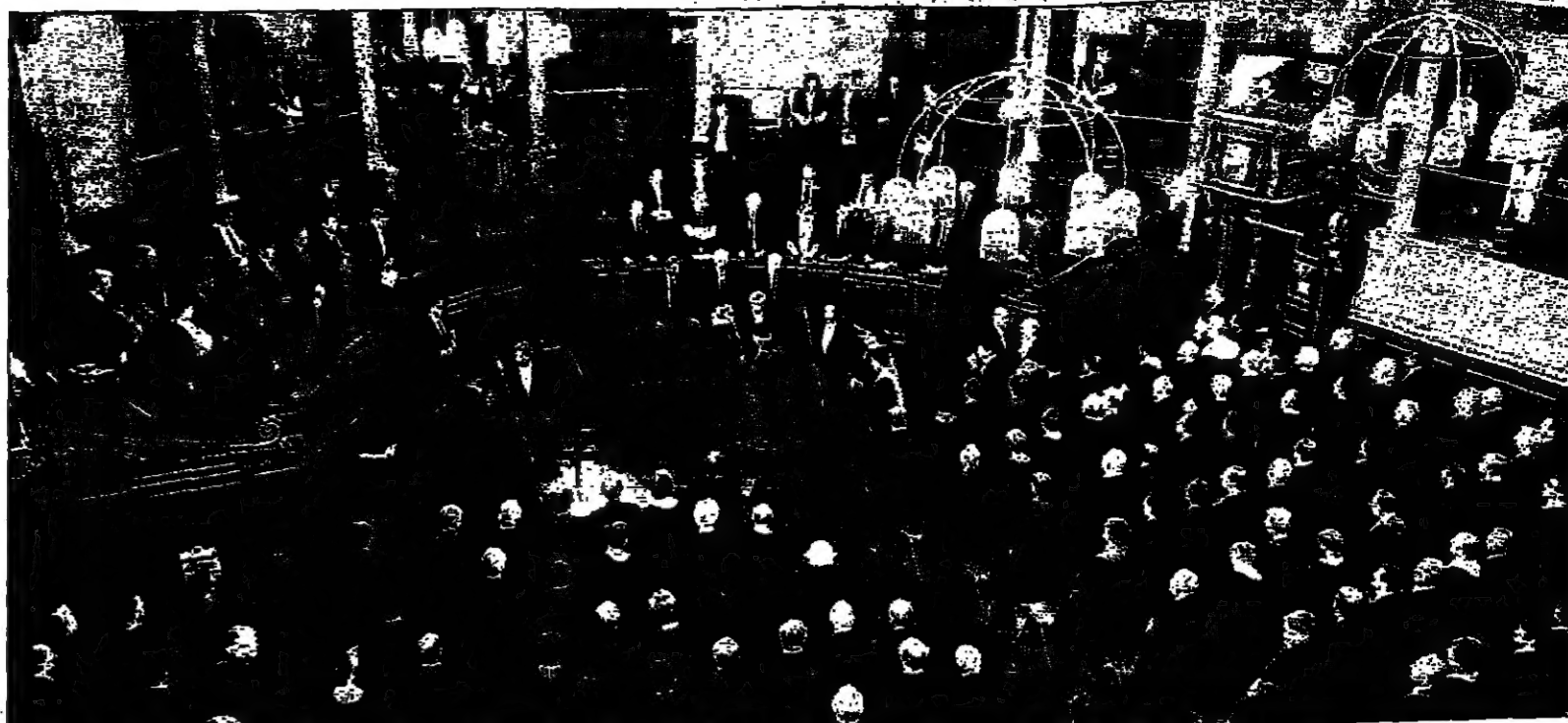
project. He said it would help to secure another multi-million-pound donation that would be a "substantial contribution" towards the £9 million shortfall on building costs. He refused to name the donor, whose support still rested on approval of the architect's plans.

Professor John Kay, director of the Said Business School, who had threatened to resign if dons rejected the plans, said that the size of the vote showed Oxford had accepted manage-

ment studies as a viable discipline. Professor Kay said: "This result is as good as we could have hoped for. There are 55 people in Oxford who would oppose anything you put forward."

He said the business school could open its doors as early as 2000. "I think there is now no reason for this not going ahead. Most of the speakers against were hiding behind rather imaginary technicalities in order to disguise their opposition to management studies, and basically Congregation saw through that. We will now create a world-class business school which will demonstrate the importance and vitality of management studies to the university, to the local business community at large, and to the world."

The new site is on land used as a car park next to Oxford's main railway station. Mr Said's original plan to appoint six of the business school's ten trustees was changed to four. Four trustees are to be provided by the university and two independently. Opposition to the business



Congregation yesterday accepted proposals for a business school, and a donation from Wafic Said, who had set a deadline for agreement

school was yesterday led by Alexander Murray, a medieval history don at University College. He objected to the foundation's power to veto the appointment of the business school director. John Finnis, Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy, said the university had set a precedent of surrendering its academic autonomy to "any donor who pushes hard enough". But several speakers insisted that the university had

addressed all the major objections raised in November. Dr Colin Lucas, the Vice-Chancellor-elect, said: "The question is not whether there should be a management school. It exists already. The question is whether it will flourish and grow with necessary speed into a school of great international reputation." Professor Sir Richard Southwood, the previous Vice-Chancellor, described Mr Said's offer as a "win-win situation" and gave warning that there would be no third chance to renegotiate terms. John Fleming, Warden of Wadham College, said that Mr Said's conditions, which included a place on the day-to-day management committee of the school, were a small price to pay. Mr Fleming said: "It is donations mainly from people in business which are crucial to the sustenance of Oxford's distinctive collegiate and tutorial system."

Six-figure salary engenders envy among academics

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

OPPOSITION to the new Oxford business school fear that the project could herald the end of an egalitarian pay structure. Oxford and Cambridge have been struggling to recruit leading academics under an antiquated pay structure that puts all professors on a basic salary of about £40,000.

Although the ancient universities have discretionary arrangements for high-flyers, they have been unable to match the packages offered by rivals in the United States and even some in Britain.

The six-figure salary that will be paid to Professor John Kay as the business school's first director caused envy around Oxford. Other appointments are also expected to be far above the university norm, bringing pressure on a system designed to foster a collegiate spirit.

British universities have been free since 1989 to negotiate their professional scales. Many took advantage of this flexibility to "enter the so-called 'transfer market' for academics to boost their research ratings. Oxford and Cambridge remained largely above the fray.

Surveys of academic pay carried out by *The Times Higher Education Supple-*

ment suggest that about 200 people in British higher education command six-figure salaries. Most are clinical academics or vice-chancellors. The pay gap between these top earners and lecturers has been growing by the year. Academic salaries still start at less than £20,000 a year and the top of the lecturing scale remains below £30,000.

At Oxford, even the vice-chancellor is paid less than £80,000 a year. Many of the 360 professors rely on extra income from consultancy work and college posts to match the salaries paid in other universities.

Dr Peter North, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, acknowledged yesterday that the university struggled to offer competitive salaries in areas such as management. But he said there was sufficient flexibility in the university's salary structure to address the problem successfully.

Alexander Murray, the medieval historian who was among the principal opponents of the scheme, said he was concerned at the impact of "city-type salaries" on the balance of the university. But Professor Kay said it would be impossible to build a successful business school if pay uniformity were imposed.

Holocaust education pack for schools

By LIN JENKINS

SURVIVORS of the Holocaust living in Britain have used their personal histories to help to put together an education pack for 13-year-olds.

The work, which took academics, survivors of the Nazi genocide, educationists and film-makers a year and a half to compile, is designed to fill what they see as a woeful gap in the knowledge of many secondary school teachers. It includes startling images as well as facsimiles of government documents and newspaper reports.

A series of colour wall-charts depict various subjects including the locations of all the extermination, labour, transit and concentration camps. There is particular emphasis on the labour camps in the Channel Islands, to give the subject immediacy for children in Britain.

The Holocaust Education Trust and the Spiro Institute, a Jewish educational and cultural body, which jointly produced the pack, say that many teachers know so little about the Holocaust that they find it hard to meet the requirements of the national curriculum, under which the subject is compulsory. Jon Mendelssohn, head of the trust, said: "Schools have been asking for help because the material available was severely limited."

A guide for teachers has been provided and the pack gives suggested lesson plans, essay titles and discussion topics. The accompanying video can be shown in sections to fit in with lesson planning.

Sean Lang, honorary secretary of the Historical Association and head of history at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, welcomed a pack on the Holocaust, saying that it was important that pupils should have such good resources. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority welcomed the pack but did not agree that the subject was being inadequately covered.

Cambridge wins £60m backing for Silicon Fen

By JOHN O'LEARY

THE software company Microsoft yesterday launched a £50 million quest with Cambridge University to create a computer with common sense.

Cambridge was picked from dozens of universities in Europe to be the Californian company's first overseas research base. Microsoft will invest up to £10 million into local companies in an attempt to create a "Silicon Fen".

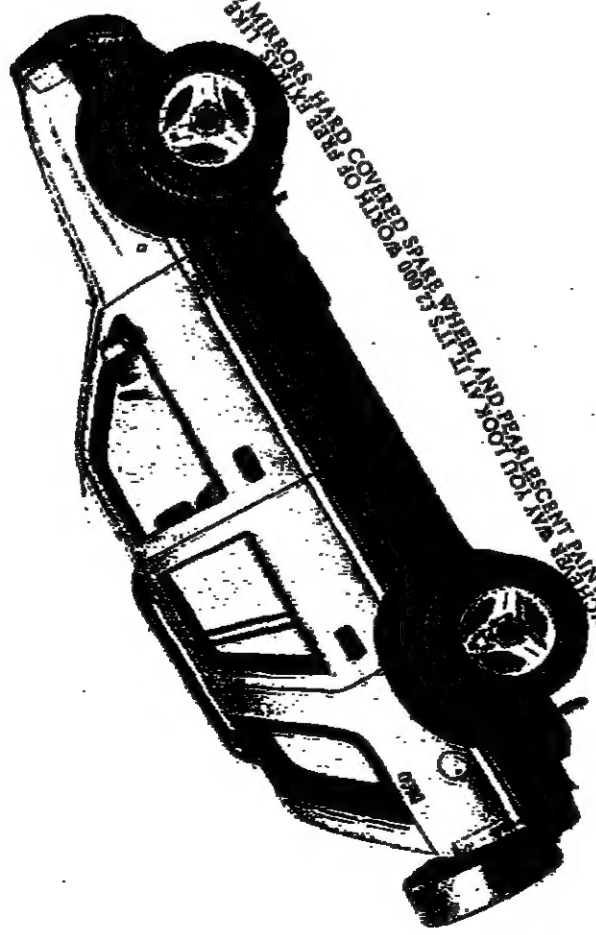
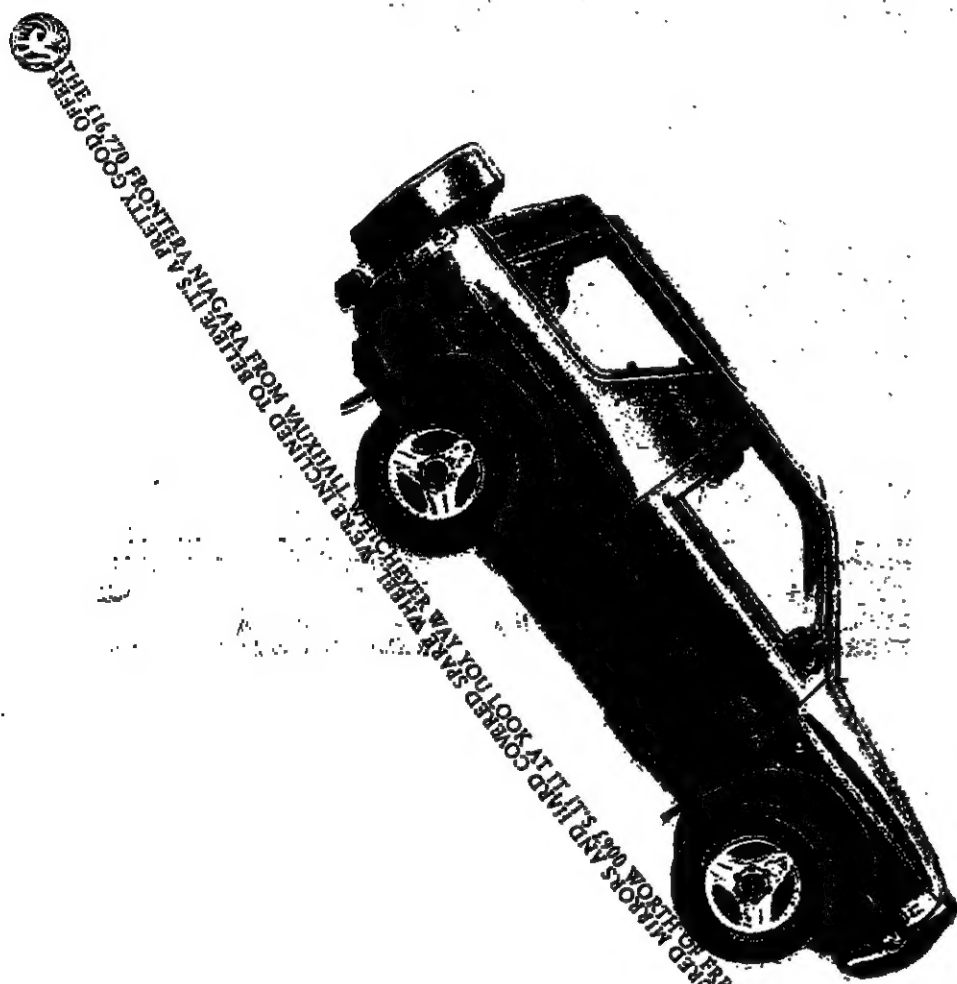
Professor Alec Broers, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, said the university would soon have a centre of high technology to rival the best in the world. The launch of the scheme was attended by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

Tasks set by Microsoft for the 40-strong research team will include making computers more understanding of owners' needs. Nathan Myhrvold, a Cambridge graduate and Microsoft's chief technology officer, said: "Computers still have an arcane structure. We see them being softer, more forgiving, having some degree of common sense."

The laboratory will open in August in rented premises. Professor Broers said the university's main contribution was likely to be in land and premises rather than cash, and would not be of a size to limit the university's activities in other spheres.



Broers: said laboratory would be world leader



Naomi Campbell took an overdose, newspaper claims

FROM JOANNA BALE
IN LAS PALMAS

NAOMI CAMPBELL was treated in hospital at the weekend after taking an overdose of tranquillisers, according to a police report leaked to Spanish newspaper yesterday.

The report confirms that the model had her stomach pumped in a Las Palmas hospital to prevent her from falling into a coma. On Monday the model maintained that she had merely suffered an allergic reaction after taking penicillin.

According to an article in the Canary Islands newspaper *La Provincia*, the documents say Miss Campbell took 20 alprazolam tablets after a row with her boyfriend, the Spanish flamenco dancer Joaquín Cortés. The drugs, from a bottle found next to her bed in a Las Palmas hotel room, are usually used to treat anxiety and insomnia. The normal dose is two to four a day.

According to the police report, Miss Campbell had been drinking alcohol, which would have exacerbated the effects of the tablets and would have caused her to fall into a coma. However the report says that her condition was never serious because there was insufficient time for the drugs to enter her bloodstream.

A spokesman at the Nuestra Señora del Pino Hospital in Las Palmas said yesterday: "We cannot comment because we have been threatened with legal action if we reveal anything to the media."

The report, which is being



Campbell said to have taken 20 tranquillisers

examined by a judge, normal administrative practice in such cases, includes an account given by two security guards at the Santa Catalina hotel where Miss Campbell and Señor Cortés were staying.

According to *La Provincia*, the guards claim that they went to the room occupied by Miss Campbell and her secretary at 3am on Sunday after hearing a loud argument between a man and a woman. They further allege that when they knocked on the door, the room was in "total disorder" but their presence was enough to calm Miss Campbell and Señor Cortés, who was staying in an adjoining room. An hour later a woman in the room called reception and requested a doctor. Señor Cortés and Miss Campbell's secretary accompanied her to hospital.

The report says that Miss Campbell was admitted fully conscious. It confirms that she

apparently told the emergency services that she had swallowed 20 tablets of the drug.

People in Gran Canaria were furious that Miss Campbell, 27, had criticised the island's medical services as Third World. In a newspaper interview with British journalists on Monday she maintained that her stomach had been pumped to get rid of penicillin she had been taking for a chest cold. She claimed the hospital "didn't understand what was wrong with me... it was a shambles".

Javier Durán, news editor of *La Provincia*, said yesterday: "We stand by our story. We were shown the report by an excellent source. The people of Gran Canaria are very upset that she has criticised our medical services and our island when our doctors probably saved her life."

Miss Campbell's legal representative declined to comment yesterday.

Nigel Lawson, page 17



GEORGE FRASER, MBE, 101: the oldest living graduate of Aberdeen University, he writes a regular newspaper column for *The Press & Journal* in Aberdeen.



FLORENCE TOTTEY, 100: from Merseyside, took over her husband's farm when he died in 1942. Has ten great-grandchildren, is worried by the speed of traffic today.



ROBERT BURNS, 101: worked for the Bertram Mills circus. Works for a French children's charity which takes him to France every year.



NORAH CLAYE, 101: a nurse from 1915 to 1951, ran a hospital on the Burma borders during the Second World War. Awarded the Burma Star on her hundredth birthday.

Centenarians reveal secret of long life

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE who live to the age of 100 tend to be strongly independent, have a sense of humour and keep up to date with the news, a survey has found.

The research, carried out to mark the centenary of the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association — now called DGAA, Homelife — discloses that when the subjects were born there were probably fewer than 100 centenarians in Britain. By 1951 there were 271, 1,185 by 1971 and 4,400 by the 1991 census.

There are estimated to be 8,000 alive today and by 2030 there are expected to be at least 30,000. Those who survive to

100 were generally found to be exceptionally positive and forthright. "They did not complain about difficulties they had encountered in the past and they were stoical about their present frailties. Several expressed their strong dislike of being frail and dependent but this was not a complaint. It was an expression of their frustration."

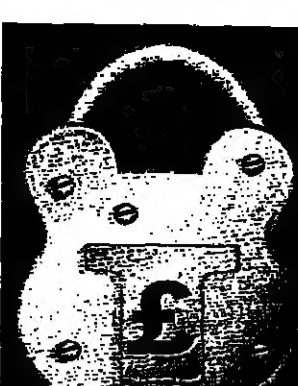
Most had worked hard all their lives, some well beyond retirement age, because they enjoyed working. They emphasised the importance of being themselves and maintaining their independence. Although they dwell on the past a great deal, they talked positively about the changes brought about by modern inventions. Those who still lived

on their own found microwaves useful and had little difficulty in using them.

Some had never drunk alcohol or smoked but a high proportion had in the past and some continued to do so. One said she started smoking on the advice of a doctor who told her it would protect her from catching diphtheria from her sister.

Longevity ran in several of their families. A woman of 104 said her mother had lived to 100 and her father to 97.

Their own death did not worry them. Fifty of them said they did not fear it and 37 said they would welcome it when it came. Only seven said they feared death. One said: "I've seen so much death, it's no stranger. To me death is just the gateway to something better."



Saturday in
THE TIMES

PEPs

How to
protect
your
windfall
from the
taxman

Implicated drug regarded as safe

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ALPRAZOLAM, which is made by Pharmacia and Upjohn and sold under the brand name Xanax, is the best-selling anti-anxiety drug throughout most of the world, though not Britain.

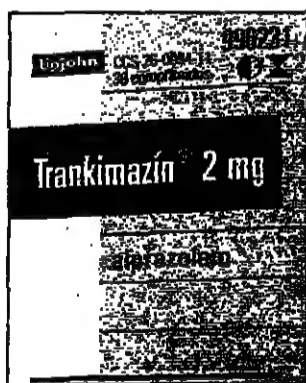
It has a good safety record, being prescribed for the short-term treatment of moderate to severe anxiety. But those taking it are warned to avoid alcohol. A spokesman for the company said that the effects of the drug in combination with alcohol would be unpredictable. "We cannot say exactly what the effect would be, because we obviously do not do drug trials on people

who are drinking," he said. The side-effects of alprazolam include drowsiness, light-headedness, loss of co-ordination, vertigo and visual disturbances. Doctors are asked to prescribe the minimum dose that will control symptoms.

The maximum daily dose in Britain is 3mg though other countries, including the United States, set the limit at 4mg. The tablets come in two sizes, so that a maximum daily dose of 4mg would be reached by taking 16 small tablets or eight larger ones. A dose of 20 tablets is therefore unlikely to have represented a dangerous overdose.

The spokesman for Pharmacia and Upjohn said: "This is a very safe and effective drug."

Naomi Campbell cannot have been prescribed the drug through the National Health Service, since it is blacklisted. That is no reflection on its quality but an attempt by the NHS to control prescription costs by issuing a "limited list" that GPs can prescribe. Xanax is not included on the list. Miss Campbell could, however, have been prescribed the drug privately or by a doctor abroad.



Alprazolam tablets: anti-anxiety drug

Lady Tryon taken into care after divorce claims

By RICHARD DUCE

LADY TRYON, a close friend of the Prince of Wales, was last night detained under the Mental Health Act shortly after claiming that her husband wanted a divorce.

Lord Tryon was on his way to see his wife at Salisbury police station last night. A spokesman for Wiltshire police said: "A lady has been detained under the Mental Health Act."

Australian-born Lady Tryon, 48, known as Kanga, said that her husband had broken news of the divorce to her after he returned from a recent two-week salmon-fishing trip in Russia.

"He said 'I am divorcing you' in front of my four children. I cannot believe it. I am distraught," she said at her home in Great Durnford, near Salisbury.

Recent tests at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London showed no recurrence of the cancer diagnosed three years ago. Lady Tryon said she was furious that her husband had stayed away from his fishing trip rather than be on hand for the cancer tests. She has been in a wheelchair since seriously injuring her back when she fell 25ft from the window of a drink and drugs

rehabilitation unit last year. "My husband is divorcing me after 24 years of marriage, of which there has been a year and two weeks in hospital after this accident. It has all come as a terrible shock," she said yesterday.

Her eldest daughter, Zoe, 22, flew back from Australia to be at home for her mother's return from hospital and was joined by Lady Tryon's other children, Charles, 21 — named after his royal godfather — and Victoria and Edward, 17.

Lord Tryon, 57, a former Page of Honour to the Queen, refused to comment.



Lady Tryon: detained under Mental Health Act

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Catholics and Protestants unite to mourn policemen

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, IN LURGAN, AND AUDREY MAGEE

HUNDREDS of Protestants and Catholics stood shoulder to shoulder outside the RUC station in Lurgan yesterday to pay tribute to the two police officers who were murdered by the IRA.

Pensioners, mothers and children came from opposite sides of the divided town to leave flowers outside the police station and to sign four books of condolences. Amid an array of bouquets lay messages that showed Northern Ireland's revulsion at Monday's murder of Constable John Graham, 34, and Constable David Johnston, 30.

One message said: "From a sincere and disgusted Catholic." Another Catholic wrote: "My blood runs cold at this dreadful act. Deepest sympathy."

The shootings, which dealt a devastating blow to the search for peace, united all shades of political opinion in condemnation of Sinn Féin and the IRA. In one of his strongest attacks on the republican movement, John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, said in Dublin: "Those who carried this out are trying

to destroy the peace process." Mr Hume was speaking after talks with Bertie Ahern, the leader of Fianna Fáil, who said that he would meet Sinn Féin only to discuss an IRA ceasefire. Mr Ahern made clear that he would refuse to meet Sinn Féin after June 26, when he is likely to be elected Taoiseach by the Irish Parliament after this month's general election.

In Lurgan, people queued outside the heavily fortified station, where the Union Jack flew at half-mast, to sign the books of condolences laid out on tables by the cross-community Lurgan Inter-Friendship Group. As the clock on the nearby Anglican church struck midday, hundreds of people observed two minutes of silence in memory of the constables who were shot a few yards away. Wilson Freeburn, the chairman of the group, said at an ecumenical service that local people regarded the killings as a "personal bereavement".

Closed to tears, Mr Freeburn said: "The people who carried out this deed inflicted a severe

wound on the people of Lurgan because the two constables put on the face of the local RUC that we came to love and understand and respect. It is time that the silent majority became much more vocal. We need to shout much louder than the paramilitary groups or political parties so that we can find the peace we desire in our nation."

During the service Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, held talks inside the station with Freddie Hall, the RUC Assistant Chief Constable for the Southern Region, and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader and local MP. Dr Mowlam left the base to sign a book of condolences.

Pastor Edward Betts, speaking after visiting Constable Graham's widow, Rosemary, said that their three daughters, aged 10, 7 and 2, were devastated. "One of the children questioned why and who, while the other just melted into tears at every available opportunity." Pastor Betts, of Tandragee Baptist Church in Co Armagh, said that Mrs

Graham was "a very, very fine girl and she is level-headed; she is coping remarkably well".

The Rev Malcolm Scott, who was Constable Johnston's minister, broke down as he recalled a "fine lad" who had time for everybody. He said the policeman had been in the process of moving house with his wife and two young sons.

Mr Scott said: "This really has cut right through the family. He had at least as many Catholic as Protestant friends and was very upset when a Catholic friend of his was beaten to death a few years ago. The last thing he would have wanted was retaliation." The RUC last night cancelled its annual sports day out of respect for the men.

Detectives yesterday arrested a man on the nationalist Kibwike estate, where they had searched several houses after a car used by the killers was found burnt out. Police said the green Rover had been bought locally last Wednesday.

Leading article, page 19



Mo Mowlam signing a book of condolences provided outside Lurgan police station by a cross-sectarian group

MoD seeks new doctor to fill Gulf War hot seat

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence is searching for a senior doctor to take charge of assessing veterans with Gulf War illnesses after the second unexpected departure from the sensitive post.

The first doctor to hold the job, Group Captain Bill Coker, asked to be moved after three years. He denied claims by veterans that he had been pushed out because he was becoming too sympathetic to their cause.

The second, Lieutenant-Colonel Banu Bhatt, took a tougher line but resigned last week after only six months. He had faced a torrent of complaints about his assessment of the ex-servicemen and is now said to be under stress.

The role of chief medical examiner of the Gulf War veterans has become highly controversial. At first the MoD dismissed any suggestion that the veterans could be suffering from a Gulf War syndrome, directly related to the 1991 conflict. Now the ministry's official position is to be "open-minded". However, the experience of Colonel Bhatt has served as a grim warning to his successor of the pitfalls of the job.

Countess Mar, who has led a personal campaign to "discover the truth" about the Gulf veterans' health problems, said that some of them had become disillusioned with Colonel Bhatt's attitude. "The

Gulf veterans were not happy with him," she said. "For example, he dismissed the notion that organophosphate pesticides could have caused sickness."

The belated announcement that these toxic pesticides had been used widely to spray all the tents in Saudi Arabia led to an apology in the Commons by Nicholas Soames, then Armed Forces Minister, who had not been told by his officials until September last year that his previous statements about organophosphates had been inaccurate.

Countess Mar has tabled a question in the House of Lords, asking about the sale of army surplus tents used in the Gulf War. She said: "Two people who bought these tents have now gone down with organophosphate poisoning."

Group Captain Coker, now on detachment to Bolling US Air Force base in Washington, insisted yesterday that he had left the job, in January, at his own request. Now he has been persuaded by John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, to provide part-time advice as a member of a new group monitoring progress on the Gulf War health inquiries.

Meanwhile the number of cases has been increasing. By last December, 1,070 veterans had been assessed and 180 were waiting. By February, 1,300 had been seen but the waiting list had grown to 340.



Fossil bones prove the jungle cat once lived in Essex

Did kitty come from the Essex marshes?

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FOSSILISED bones found alongside the A13 have proved that jungle cats once prowled the Essex marshes.

The species, found today in Egypt and Asia, coexisted 200,000 years ago with lions, rhinos, mammoths, brown bears and wolves. Danielle Schreve, a palaeontologist, says:

"The jungle cat, *Felis chaus*, which is larger than a modern wild cat but smaller than a lynx, may have been one of the ancestors of the domesticated tabby. "It is still abundant around the edges of human settlements in Egypt and could have contributed to the ancestry of kitty," Ms Schreve says.

The fossils were found as part of an excavation funded by the Highways Agency and carried out by the field archaeology group of Essex County Council. The A13 is being widened at Aveley and the excavation is to establish

the presence of any interesting remains before the macadam covers them.

The team found one of the cat's front legs, consisting of the humerus, radius and ulna bones, the longest of which is 13 cm. The jungle cat, which has a short tail and pointed ears, would have lived in the margins of the marshland, catching small mammals, birds and frogs.

Miss Schreve, 25, a PhD student at University College London, who also is consultant palaeontologist to Essex County Council, said: "It is a really exciting find because we had no idea this cat had ever reached Britain."

Archaeologists believe that animals were not domesticated until man began forming settlements about 10,000 years ago but since pet cats are anatomically very similar to wild ones, it is difficult to date the emergence of the domestic cat with precision.

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ملفوظات الامام

Fires on cruise ship ignite an old-fashioned mystery

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH
ON BOARD VICTORIA

BRITISH investigators boarded the cruise liner *Victoria* in the German port of Rostock last night to investigate two fires. Arson was not being ruled out.

The fire service experts had flown out from England to board the vessel before it weighed anchor and set course for Copenhagen during a tour of the Baltic with more than 670 passengers, most of them British.

The *Victoria* is the smallest ship in the P&O fleet and its cosy elegance harks back to a gentler era, before today's great superliners. Agatha Christie's detective Hercule Poirot would not be out of place twiddling his moustache in the panelled library as he mulled over the case after a kipper breakfast.

The second incident was the more serious, occurring early yesterday when a fire broke out in an office of the food and beverage department. Stuart Barber, a member of the crew working for the department, was trapped in an adjoining cabin and raised the alarm.



The *Victoria*, built in 1965, carries a crew of 400

He was freed by firefighters and was said to be shaken but unharmed.

The first fire broke out in the early hours of Sunday after the ship had left St Petersburg. A computer recording passengers' bar bills was melted — although the ship is understood to have a copy of the records. Nobody was injured.

Steve Burgoine, the captain, said that the incidents would not prevent him from sailing last night after spending yesterday in Rostock while passengers visited Berlin. "I am perfectly happy to sail the ship," he said. "There is nothing wrong with the ship." He said that the events of the past few days were unusual. In

both incidents he had called full crew alerts and had experienced only five such alerts in 32 years at sea.

"It could be a big coincidence. I'm not ruling out anything," he said. "I don't know how the fire was caused. Everything points to a cigarette or spontaneous combustion, or somebody starting the fire." He added: "I don't see any risk to passengers and crew. I am going to double up my patrols and watches and take a keener interest." Last night he was planning to address passengers to reassure them that the ship was safe.

Captain Burgoine said that the *Victoria* had the latest fire

detection and fighting equipment. The ship goes into dry dock in November for a refit to meet a deadline for further safety improvements laid down by international maritime regulators.

The investigators searching for clues last night were from the fire service in Hampshire because the two-week cruise had departed from Southampton last week. The investigators' verdict was not expected until at least tonight.

The 28,000-tonne ship, which carries 400 crew and a maximum of almost 800 passengers, was built in 1965 and is now ageing and old-fashioned by the standards of younger superliners.

However, like her sister ship *Canberra*, which is bowing out of service later this year, she commands fierce loyalty among passengers, especially those of a certain age. Many of those on the current voyage have cruised many times on the *Victoria*.

There were no indications last night among those snoozing quietly in the lounges that they planned to disembark before the boat returned to Southampton.



The lido on the liner, whose elegance engenders loyalty among older passengers

Paedophile claim man bailed

A police investigation was under way last night into the claims of a man who said on live television that he had had sex with boys. The 36-year-old was released on bail yesterday pending inquiries by Scotland Yard's Paedophile Unit.

A police source said last night: "We are taking this very seriously." The man, who has not been named by police, claimed on the BBC1 programme *Kitroy* that he had had sex with up to 18 boys. Officers acting on a tip-off arrested him as he left the Teddington studios in south-west London on Monday.

Double blow

A mother's house was burgled hours after her year-old baby was badly hurt in a fire. Karen Allinson, from Leeds, learnt of the break-in as she sat with her daughter Jessica in hospital. Jessica was saved by two youths who climbed a drainpipe and smashed a window to reach her.

Mobiles opposed

Four out of five people want drivers to be banned from using hand-held mobile phones, a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents survey says. The society said there had been at least four deaths where a mobile phone had been implicated. "We don't want to see any more."

Beatles grant

The National Trust has won a £47,500 National Lottery grant towards restoring Sir Paul McCartney's former home, a council house where he composed his first songs and the Beatles practised. The terrace house in Allerton, Liverpool, will be opened to visitors next year.

Airport challenge

Matt Benson, 23, who spent 17 nights in a tunnel at Manchester Airport's second runway, has promised to continue protests and break his record for staying underground. Protesters are today to seek leave in the High Court to challenge the decision to approve the runway.

Youths cautioned

Twelve teenagers have been cautioned by police over the circulation of forged free bus passes and identity cards. The youths from two high schools and a college on the Isle of Wight were questioned after it was found that passes under a scheme subsidised by the council were being forged.

Dangerous dog

Two women were slightly hurt when they were knocked down by a car apparently being driven by a bull terrier. While the dog's owner was visiting friends in Dorchester, the terrier jumped into the front of the car, broke the handbrake and knocked the vehicle out of gear.

Woman passed as American serviceman

BY RICHARD DUCE

FOR more than six months an English woman disguised herself as an American serviceman and hoodwinked military police at a US airbase so that she could be close to her sweetheart.

A newspaper cutting has been discovered in which Teresa Smith recounts how she cut her blonde hair and mingled with servicemen based at Burtonwood, near Warrington. Now the Burtonwood Association is anxious to trace Miss Smith, who is believed to have married and moved to the American Midwest in the 1950s.

In an interview with *The American Weekly* in 1954, Miss Smith told how in a time of postwar austerity she was smitten by the apparently luxurious lifestyle of the American servicemen. She smuggled herself on to the base to see her boyfriend and spent so much time there that she lost her job as a nursing assistant.

Over a game of cards with five airmen it was decided as a dare that she should see how long she could pass herself off as one of them. Her bravado ran to standing in the rear rank during morning roll call and eating in the mess. "I had the devil in me then," she told the American paper.

The romance ended but Miss Smith is believed to have married James Viars, another serviceman at the base. If alive she would be 65.

Outburst lands cox in hot water

BY RICHARD DUCE

CAMBRIDGE University's winning Boat Race cox, a self-confessed hothead, was fined and banned from traditional end-of-year races after directing a violent outburst at a rival.

Only an immediate appeal by Kevin Whyman allowed him to compete in last weekend's May Bumps final on the River Cam. Whyman, 21, the Peterhouse cox, lost his temper with Rob Stanforth, the Emmanuel College cox, after claiming his crew was being impeded after a race. He swore and threatened to have oars broken over the backs of the rival crew.

A repentant Whyman said yesterday: "I'm a two-tier person. I'm nice and quiet out of the water but in it I am a hot-headed guy. If I wasn't that sort of person I wouldn't have steered the way I did in the Boat Race. I accept that my language was out of order. I fully regret what I said but I didn't think too much about it until the storm erupted."

"It was my first bumps and I was excited. We were on our way back when the Emmanuel crew kept stopping and starting in front of me, which was causing us problems because we were practising some technical work."

"It was dangerous behaviour and I told them in no uncertain terms to get out of the way or they could get hit by a blade. Language like that is sometimes used. I didn't mean I would actually do it."



Whyman, after victory in this year's Boat Race

Despite an immediate apology for the incident on Friday, a notice was posted that Whyman had been suspended from the Saturday finals.

George Gilbert, secretary of the university's combined boat clubs, said the £50 fine "was due to the rude and abusive behaviour of Kevin Whyman to another crew ... university rowers are expected to set a standard."

Whyman's ban was lifted after an appeal to David Cassidy, the Cambridge Boat Race president, who argued on his behalf. "The way he was treated was without precedent," he said. "Possibly someone was trying to make an example of him."

Whyman competed on the final day of the May Bumps — eventually won by Downing — but still faces a disciplinary hearing.

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Family's bonds waver on Wall St

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

WALL Street, arguably the most unsentimental place on earth, is gripped by a family saga of soap-opera proportions. Why, everyone is asking, did Jessica Biblowicz leave her father's broking house to work for someone else?

Such interest is explained by the fact that the father is Sanford Weill, a Wall Street titan; the broking house is Smith Barney Inc, one of America's largest; and 37-year-old Ms Biblowicz, apart from being fiercely intelligent, is an attractive blonde.

Ms Biblowicz, who ran the mutual funds department for Smith Barney, was widely believed to be on an express train to the chief executive's post. Being the boss's daughter helped, of course, but so did the fact that she was good at her job.

But why did Ms Biblowicz move to John Levin & Co, a comparative Wall Street mid-tier? It has been suggested that she fell out with James Dimon, the firm's chairman. Mr Dimon, 41, is just as clever and ambitious as Ms Biblowicz. He is her father's protégé, and Mr Weill relies on him to such an extent that many regard him as the tycoon's adopted son. When Mr Weill went through a rocky patch some years ago, it was Mr Dimon who rescued him, suggesting a variety of astute deals that put the former back in business.

In a nutshell: daddy was not going to let filial sentiment cloud his judgment. A daughter is, naturally, a daughter, but when it comes to a valuable chap like Mr Dimon, business comes first.

Ms Biblowicz has denied that she left the firm because she could not tolerate her rival. She has, in fact, denied that Mr Dimon is a rival at all. She said: "I'm not leaving Smith Barney because of the size of my job or anything else. I am leaving Smith Barney because I think this is a good opportunity for me."

Mr Dimon said: "Jessica was a friend before she got here. She was a friend while she was here. And she's a friend now."

Observers believe, however, that there were profound disputes between the two, particularly over corporate tactics. Some, however, see things in more straightforward terms. Burton Greenwald, a mutual fund consultant who has worked often with Ms Biblowicz, said: "She has a terrible cross to bear as the boss's daughter. She will never be judged by her merits as long as she's in Smith Barney."

Market report, page 28

Gore sued in row over report on TWA crash

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A WOMAN who lost her husband in the Lockerbie disaster and was appointed to a White House airline safety commission is suing Vice-President Al Gore over the report into last year's TWA Flight 800 crash.

Victoria Cummock has filed a suit in federal court against Mr Gore and the Department of Transportation, alleging that the Vice-President forced her to abandon a call for specific counter-terrorism measures and demands for their implementation. A magazine report claimed yesterday that Mr Gore's decision may have been influenced by large-scale campaign contributions from the airlines.

Mrs Cummock has not endorsed the accepted theory that the Boeing 747 was brought down by mechanical failure and believes a terrorist bomb could have been the cause of the disaster.

She claims that Mr Gore, as chairman of the commission, refused to publish her detailed dissent as part of the group's official recommendations following last July's TWA crash off Long Island in which all 230 passengers and crew were killed.

The report, when presented to President Clinton in February, was said to have the unanimous support of all 21 members of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. It recommended that special bomb detectors should be installed at only 54 of America's 450

airports and, even then, only bags deemed suspicious would be checked.

Mrs Cummock refused to sign the report and, according to *The American Spectator*, she then received a fax from Gerry Kavauer, the commission's executive director, promising her dissent would be published if she relented. She was later told Mr Gore would not agree to include her comments. The magazine alleges that Mr Gore's initial enthusiasm for anti-terrorism measures, which could have cost airlines as much as \$1 billion (about £600 million), was curbed by large donations to the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign by many airlines, including TWA.

Federal Election Commission documents show that airlines gave nearly \$500,000 in soft money to the Democratic Party after Mr Clinton appointed the commission.

In September last year on the day that Mr Gore promised the airline lobby there would be no expensive new counter-terrorism measures, the Democratic National Committee received a \$40,000 contribution from TWA headquarters.

In her suit, Mrs Cummock claims that the commission and the Department of Transportation intended to file the final report without her complete dissent. She says the body violated the Federal Advisory Committee Act which requires committees to publish full minority dissents.



A member of the Moge people waits to vote in the Western Highlands area of Papua New Guinea. The election started on Sunday, but due to ballot papers not being ready or misprinted, ballot boxes being destroyed

Islanders go to polls

and polling station violence. voting is expected to last for two weeks. A Papua New Guinea politician kidnapped by separatists on Bou-

gainville Island on June 1 was released yesterday. John Moanis, the MP for Bougainville Province, was taken captive while

campaigning for the election. He was released after three days, only to be recaptured by a different rebel faction and taken to the rebel heartland, near the vast Panguna copper mine, root of the conflict. (Reuters)

Romania dispute is likely to delay French re-entry to Nato

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE likelihood of France announcing its reintegration into Nato at next month's Madrid summit is fading as the prospect of a showdown with the United States over Romanian membership increases.

The US declaration last week that it would back the inclusion of only three new members — Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic — in the first round of Nato expansion has infuriated France, which backed Romania, and other Nato members who backed Italy.

"The deepest wound — the one which will continue bleed-

ing the longest — is in France," a senior US administration official said yesterday. He added that although Romania's future entry was virtually certain, it would be "profoundly stupid" to commit the alliance in Madrid to bringing in Romania at some future date because it would create two classes of members, something the alliance has tried to avoid.

A French government official said yesterday that as there had been "no advance" in the US position to accommodate France's views, the chance of reaching agreement before Madrid must diminish.

"It is obviously desirable to have agreement before Madrid, but if that is not possible, we must try to sort it out then."

However, failure to reach agreement on membership before Madrid would make an announcement of France's reintegration into the Nato military structure at that meeting, one of the dreams of Nato several months ago, much less likely. France under President Chirac has made it clear that it would be prepared to rejoin the integrated structure after pulling out more than 30 years ago, provided that the organisation became leaner and less dominated by America.

Judge rules OJ must do without golf

Los Angeles: Golf is not an essential part of O.J. Simpson's life, a Beverly Hills judge has ruled at a hearing to decide which Simpson assets can be sold off for the families of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman (Giles Whitwell writes).

Simpson, who faces a \$33.5 million (£20 million) bill in damages for the wrongful deaths of his former wife and her friend, plays golf four or five times a week on municipal courses, having been ejected from the exclusive Riviera Country Club. His lawyer argued therefore that his golf equipment was essential to the conduct of his everyday life.

McVeigh 'motivated by Red scare film'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

TIMOTHY MCVEIGH, the Oklahoma City bomber, was motivated by the 1984 film *Red Dawn* with an extreme right-wing sub-plot that should be a sobering lesson to film-makers, a leading Hollywood commentator said.

The film, in which America is invaded by Russian and Cuban troops, is "a vivid reminder of the need for Hollywood to consider the moral and political consequences of the material it injects into our global pop culture," wrote Peter Bart, editor of *Variety*.

Mr Bart, a former MGM executive who approved the initial script, said *Red Dawn*

was originally entitled *Ten Soldiers* and intended as a study of "the brutalisation of the innocent". It was redrafted to sound "more menacing".

Thanks to input from "right-wing think-tanks" and Defence Department data made available by General Alexander Haig, a consultant, every facet of the project began to change, Mr Bart continued. Of particular interest in the light of McVeigh's hatred of the federal Government, a sub-plot was added "about America's political bankruptcy and the pervasiveness of its enemies". McVeigh has spoken of his fondness for *Red Dawn*, according to Mr Bart.

WORLD SUMMARY

Naples in crackdown on Mafia

Rome: Troops were on the streets of Naples yesterday as Antonio Bassolino, the Mayor, cracked down on gangland crime after a series of Mafia murders (Richard Owen writes).

He said that bringing in the army was a "regrettable necessity". Gangland warfare between rival factions of the Camorra, the Naples-based Mafia, has left 76 people dead since the beginning of the year.

28 wounded in Hebron

Hebron: Israeli troops shot and wounded 28 Palestinians in a fourth day of clashes with Arabs who hurled stones and petrol bombs in the West Bank town of Hebron, witnesses said. Officials at al-Ahli hospital said a Palestinian boy, 12, was in a critical condition after a rubber-coated metal bullet penetrated his head. (Reuters)

Atom plant cancer check

Paris: A fresh inquiry has been ordered into the incidence of cancer around a nuclear reprocessing plant at La Hague in northwest France after an official study showed a "concentration" of cases near the site. The study indicated that children may have developed cancer after playing on a beach. (AFP)

Mexico bars way to priest

Mexico City: The Mexican Government has barred Henry McCowling, a Scottish priest, from re-entering the country. He is at least the twelfth Roman Catholic priest to have been expelled from Chiapas, where rebels staged a brief uprising during 1994. (AP)

Sri Lankan suicide toll

Colombo: More people have died by suicide than have been killed in Sri Lanka's civil war, according to a government report. About 70,000 people have killed themselves since 1983, when the rebellion by Tamils began. The war has claimed 50,000 lives. (AP)

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Blair to curb costs of hosting summits

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN AMSTERDAM

TONY BLAIR is to call a halt to the "freebie culture" that benefits thousands of journalists covering European Union summits. The financial rigour of the Labour Government is about to stop the "groovy train" for reporters who flock to European capitals for the six-monthly European Council gatherings and subsidiary meetings of finance and other ministers.

Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, have been horrified at the cost of staging summits and, particularly, the lavish gifts, free food and soft drinks showered on the press. With Britain set to stage several big summits next year, including two Group of Eight gatherings which will be attended by journalists from all over the world, and the European Council summit in Cardiff next June, they are trying to control the cost.

The Cardiff gathering is already being dubbed the "austerity summit" by European journalists. Mr Brown has been told that the basic press facilities for an informal meeting of finance ministers in York early next year will cost £350,000.

The overall cost of staging Amsterdam is reported to be £5 million. The 3,200 journalists covering the

EU summit were invited to go to a warehouse in the summit complex and pick up their "presents for the press", which included a suitcase and trolley, a bottle of *jenever* — the local speciality, three small metal drinking cups, shoe-cleaning kit, three pens and a CD-Rom extolling the attractions of the Dutch capital.

Food and soft drink and — unusually — telephone charges are free. Alcohol has to be paid for. The cost falls on the Dutch taxpayer.

Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, is a prime mover in the campaign to end the freebies, although there appears to be resistance in the Foreign Office to the idea of cutting off free food and soft drinks for journalists who are effectively captives in the summit complex while it is proceeding.

He said yesterday that he would probably be seen as a killjoy, but "why should the press get all these freebies when people are short of food in many European capitals?"

Mr Campbell, former political editor of the *Daily Mirror*, said that when he attended summits he refused to accept the gifts. He is backed by Mr Brown.

His press secretary, Charlie Whelan, said: "We are determined

to keep costs down. We owe it to the British taxpayer not to waste their money." Handing presents to the press and diplomats is not a practice confined to Europe. Reporters travelling to summits of the Group of Seven industrialised countries usually get their press bags packed full of goodies, including tape recorders. Next year there will be a special jobs summit of the G7 and Russia in London and the annual gathering at Birmingham in June. With Britain holding the EU presidency for the first six months of 1998, there will be a host of Union meetings.

EU veterans say that the most lavish gifts have often been doled out by the least wealthy governments. Hardened EU journalists are cynical about any British crack-down. They were decidedly underwhelmed at the hospitality provided under the last British presidency. At the last London EU summit, journalists received polyester neckties and were served sparse rations on paper plates. "It cannot get much worse," said one. The austerity may only last for six months. Other countries need not follow Mr Blair's example.

Leading article, page 19



A selection of the "freebies" that 3,200 journalists covering the European Union summit in Amsterdam were given by their Dutch hosts. They included a suitcase and trolley, a bottle of the local speciality, metal drinking cups and shoe-cleaning kit

Brollies and gold watches sweeten task of the press

By PETER FOSTER

IN THE course of their duties the average European editor will pick up an array of souvenir ashtrays, china dishes, cheap watches, beach towels, mugs, paperweights, coffee-table books, tourist guides, carry-cases, document holders, compact discs, cassette tapes and most other forms of bribe that you care to mention.

None of these items is intended to corrupt, according to a former Foreign Editor. They are rather meant as small tokens of welcome and are often supplied by local businesses hoping to push their wares and promote the local economy. Lisbon '92 will be fondly remembered by one European specialist for the capacious white, red and green beach towel which he still takes on holiday. The child of another foreign correspondent still plays with the Mercedes-Benz model car that dad bought home from a German EU summit.

Last year was a particularly happy one for the "summitteer". Several lobby correspondents are still working out of the smart canvas document carry-case which they were given at the emergency Turin summit in March, and a teenage son is still wearing the Swatch wristwatch that was brought home. Fortunately a second summit in June threw up a second watch for the younger brother.

In Dublin last winter corre-

spondents were grateful for the complimentary golfing umbrella which the Irish Government handed out. "It rained non-stop," one journalist recalls. Thankfully, the press kit also contained a bottle of Jameson's Irish Whiskey to keep out the cold, and a side of smoked salmon.

These gifts are modest by the standards of some states. One political reporter recalled yesterday how journalists travelling with the former Prime Minister, John Major, were all given gold watches after a three-hour stop in a Gulf state. Conscientious members of the press who declared their gifts on their return to England were asked to pay up to £1,000 in duty.

Mr Blair's plans for an economy drive will be no surprise to foreign journalists who rated the British summit in Edinburgh in 1992 as the worst yet. Many of the main events took place in an athletics stadium with the BBC setting up their studio in the men's showers which burst into life during one broadcast. "We spent the rest of the summit looking nervously at the ceiling," recalled one present.

Yesterday, as journalists returned home from Amsterdam, it was not difficult to see who had been at the European party, as lines of weary reporters dragged the same complimentary suitcases through the airport.

No cheese-paring in Caerphilly country

By GLEN OWEN

CARDIFF, scene of next June's European Council summit, gave a sour reception to the clampdown on the "freebie culture". The city's chamber of commerce suggested that local businesses might be called on to keep the gravy train rolling, or, as the chamber's Helen Conway put it, "to make sure that journalists go away with a good impression of Cardiff".

"We are certainly intending to be hospitable... it is the perfect chance to encourage more visitors." She said it was too early to disclose the contents of the "goody bag" for journalists. "There are some fine Cardiff brews and Caerphilly cheese is a local speciality. Not that I am suggesting they are only interested in food and drink."

In York, where a meeting of EU foreign ministers will be held early next year, the view was the city was enticement enough. "People have been coming here for thousands of years, so they will not have to be persuaded to enjoy them-

selves," said Jo Murray, from the York Tourism Bureau, which will arrange the conference. "We will do everything we can to give them the information they need, but that does not include things like bottles of whiskey."

John Lamb, from the chamber of commerce in Birmingham, where a Group of Eight conference will be held in May, said the city had no plans to lavish anything on the journalists. "They might get a chamber of commerce key ring, if they are on the A-list."

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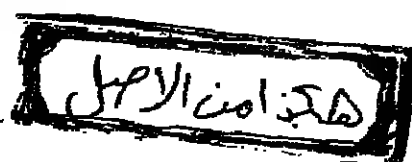
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'Son of Maastricht' scales down goals for Europe unity

AS EUROPE'S leaders laboured last night to overcome the final sticking points in the new Union treaty, it was clear that pragmatism and old-fashioned national interest had prevailed over grand vision in the effort to revamp the Maastricht treaty.

More than five years since the leap towards political union and two years since talks began on the revamped version, the "Son of Maastricht" has lurched into life as an exercise in cautious compromise, a 150-page reflection of the defensive, inward-looking mood of the Union.

"Modesty was the name of the game," said a minister from federal-minded Belgium, who contrasted yesterday's haggling over textual minutiae with the bolder statesmanship of Europe's past. For many officials, the overriding priority was to avoid shaking monetary union. The project at the heart of the push for a political union survived a Franco-German dispute this week, but faces a shaky countdown to its launch in 1999. "No one wanted a crisis. EMU is the big game in town," a British official said.

Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, voiced his own complaint about the Treaty of Amsterdam. "I would have liked it to have been more adventurous in one or two areas," the former Luxembourg Prime Minister said. A Dutch diplomat said that "Delors was the embodiment of Maastricht. Santer is the walking Treaty of



Grand vision finds no place in last-minute haggling over the finer points of the new Union treaty, reports Charles Bremner

Amsterdam. "With the EU status quo already shaky enough, there was no rush to fulfil the federalist dreams of scrapping the veto. The shift to qualified majority voting was expected to cover only two or three relatively marginal new fields such as industrial policy."

At most, the inter-governmental conference goes only part of the way to fulfilling its main mission of adapting the Union for the entry of up to a dozen new members from the old Communist bloc of Central and Eastern Europe early in the next century. Nothing demonstrated the narrow as-

pect of the treaty negotiations better than last night's squabbling over the "institutions". This is the streamlining needed to ensure that the arrival of new members does not jam the workings of the Commission and the EU's decision-making machinery.

Only one of the dozens of new treaty sections contains the seeds of a big break with the past. That is the article on "flexibility", a mechanism for allowing groups of states to band together in new policies, provided they do not interfere with the single market and other existing practices.

The Government, worried that this could be used to create a "hard core" to the detriment of the others, was fighting last night to ensure that the device was always subject to a veto.

British officials last night played down the significance of the flexibility clause, saying "the political steam has gone out of it" for the rest of Europe since the defeat of the Conservative Government. The flexible approach had been devised largely as a way of getting around Tory resistance to change in the EU, an official said.

However, with something for every government in the



President Chirac, left, with Helmut Kohl in Amsterdam. They managed to resolve most of their differences over monetary union

Treaty of Amsterdam, EU leaders were preparing to declare victory once the bargaining was over.

Tony Blair, who espoused most of the EU positions of John Major but with friendly rhetoric, was happy that he had achieved his aims of retaining sovereignty over British borders, keeping the EU out of European defence and putting job creation high in EU priorities. "We have achieved what the Conservatives never managed by sitting and carping on the sidelines,"

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said. However, some doubts did hang over a separate deal to solve Britain's "quota-hopping" problem with foreign fishermen. Spain, whose vessels are most active with British licences, was objecting to an accord worked out by London and the Commission. Britain was also pleased that it had succeeded in introducing an Article on animal welfare into the Union's constitution, albeit with a Spanish-inspired clause making exceptions for

"cultural traditions".

Though heavy with language promising citizens such things as "fundamental rights of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights", the Amsterdam treaty carries only a couple of big ideas in response to the complaint that the EU has lost touch with its citizens. This is the proclamation of a "zone of freedom, security and justice" that lifts frontier controls, except those on the borders with Britain and Ireland, and centralises administration, again with limits.

Germany, one of the most federal-minded states, demonstrated its sense of insecurity by blocking the majority desire to fix decisions on asylum and visas by majority rather than unanimous voting. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor and still the dominant force in the EU summitry, said that it was a "national duty and a piece of self-preservation" to ensure that Germany had a veto on such decisions.

Another gesture to the dominant fear of European citizens is the new employment chap-

ter, proposed by the Swedes last year and heavily pushed by France's new Socialist Government. Germany failed yesterday in an attempt to place severe restrictions on the use of EU funds for job creation. Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, was busy taking credit for the chapter, which is twinned with proclamations on employment policy extracted from Germany to accompany the "stability pact" on monetary union.

Simon Jenkins, page 18

Jesuit assures diehard atheists they will get chance to enter pearly gates

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ATHEISTS who secretly worry there might be an afterlife after all were yesterday offered comfort by a leading Jesuit theologian, who declared that non-believers would also enter Paradise after death, "provided they live and die with a clear conscience".

Father Giovanni Marchesi, resident theologian on the Jesuit magazine *Civiltà Cattolica* (Catholic Civilisation) said members of

the other great world religions, such as Buddhists, Muslims and Jews, could also hope for "eternal salvation". He said St Augustine had been wrong to say that non-believers would burn in Hell for eternity. Instead Father Marchesi said he based his theories on the gospels, and on the writings of the third century Christian writer, Origen, who held that, although souls became either "demons or angels" after death, at the Last Judgement "even the Devil himself will be saved".

Father Marchesi's reflections appear in a book on Hans Urs von Balthasar, a Swiss theologian who died in 1988 and who elaborated a theory of "divine salvation for all men". Father Marchesi said von Balthasar believed that, although Hell existed, it was empty. The Church had never definitively ruled that "even arch-sinners such as Judas or Hitler" were in Hell. Father Marchesi said his text had been cleared by the Vatican before publication. "I prefer to describe atheists as those who

believe that they do not believe," he said. "Both they and those who adhere to non-Christian religions may still hope for salvation, as long as they have earned it by the way they lived their lives."

Father Marchesi said Christ had died on the cross "to save all of suffering humanity". He did not want to cause offence to non-believers, but Christians "must always hope that others will move towards the light".

Father Marchesi said that, although St John wrote that "the

unbeliever has already been judged because he did not put his trust in God's only Son", he also wrote that "it was not to judge the world that God sent his Son into the world but that through him the world might be saved".

Father Marchesi has also drawn on Edith Stein, the Carmelite nun of Jewish origin who died at Auschwitz and was recently beatified by the Pope, who wrote that "faith in the limitlessness of divine love and grace justifies the hope of universal redemption".

But Alessandro Maggioni, the Bishop of Como and a member of the Vatican commission formulating a new Catechism for the millennium, said that atheists did not have privileged access to Paradise. Asked if he thought tyrants such as Nero and Stalin had been guaranteed salvation, the bishop replied that "the mysteries of the human conscience and divine design" could not be easily penetrated.

Margherita Hack, the leading Italian astronomer, said the new

ruling marked a significant overturn to atheism by the Vatican. But she said that, since she did not personally believe in the world beyond, the latest theory was irrelevant to her.

"What matters is what we do in this world," Professor Hack said. *La Repubblica* published a cartoon showing St Peter welcoming an atheist at the pearly gates with the words "Do come in, you too can enter Paradise". "Thanks all the same, but for me it does not exist," the atheist replies, turning away.

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Israeli Labour leader plans Blairite revamp

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ENVY of Tony Blair has spread to Israel, where the main opposition Labour Party announced plans yesterday to send a team of experts to Britain to learn his methods in its efforts to defeat the right-wing Government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Although many of the superficial parallels work out differently in practice, Israel's newly elected Labour leader, Ehud Barak, at 55 some 22 years younger than his uncharismatic predecessor, Shimon Peres, believes that the Blair model is the key to his success. He is even prepared to go so far as to introduce a similar party name change.

Labour was unexpectedly routed by Mr Netanyahu's right-wing coalition in 1992, an election largely fought on security issues. But many commentators felt that Labour was also dragged down by its links to the Histadrut Trades Union Federation and its inability to appeal to the mass of Jewish voters.

Mr Barak, who has vowed

since his election on June 2 to try to defeat Mr Netanyahu, who has a 66-34 majority, before the next poll in 2000, told members of Labour's central committee: "Our experts are going to find out what it was that Blair did to rehabilitate the British Labour Party and bring it back to power. I would like to make use of his experience and employ his methods here."

A former army chief of staff whose political ambitions

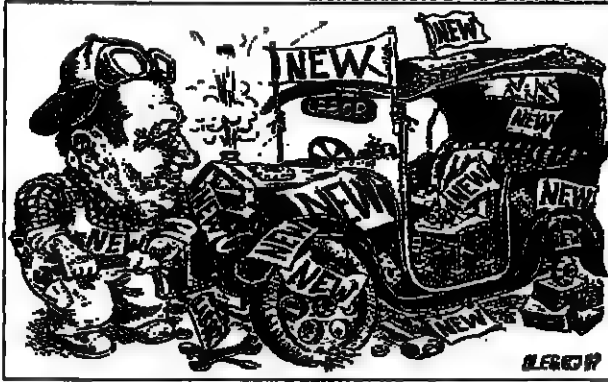
have earned him the nickname "Napoleon", Mr Barak was seen by party members voting in the June 2 primary as the only one of the four candidates with a chance of beating Mr Netanyahu.

Mr Barak told the committee that he has not ruled out the possibility of renaming his party, as Mr Blair did. One suggestion was to rename it the Israeli Centre Party, but Mr Barak said he was considering changing the name to

the New Labour Party. "This may have a psychological significance, though I am aware that a name is not everything and that the really important thing is the substance of the message. But even names and appearance have their importance," said Mr Barak, who has been out of uniform for only two years and is sorely lacking an organiser of the calibre of Peter Mandelson.

His plans for a British-style image transformation won backing from his main rival in the leadership election, Yossi Beilin, who said: "A new name would embody the fact that we are dealing with an old established party which seeks to renew itself and make itself relevant once more."

But as with Old Labour diehards in Britain, there are those in the Israeli party still contemptuous of such manoeuvring. Nissim Zivili, who resigned on Sunday as Labour Party Secretary-General, said: "It is the same party and it smells the same no matter what you call it."



Oleg's view in The Jerusalem Post of Labour's task



A Black Watch soldier rehearses a Highland dance for a Hong Kong farewell concert

Guerrilla radio calls Pol Pot a traitor

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

POL POT, the Khmer Rouge leader, has been denounced as a traitor by Khmer Rouge radio, the station that was his mouthpiece for decades.

The denunciation was made as the 69-year-old leader under whose rule at least a million Cambodians were killed, reportedly fled through thick forests towards the Thai border, allegedly with a small group of hostages and loyal fighters.

The last person to be called a traitor by Khmer Rouge radio was Son Sen, the former Khmer Rouge defence chief, who with his wife, family and bodyguards was murdered last week, apparently on Pol Pot's orders.

The problem of the treason of Pol Pot has been settled on June 14 and the people are rejoicing, the broadcast said. Though few here would speculate what the broadcast meant by the problem having "been settled", a senior government official said yesterday that the situation around Khmer Rouge headquarters at Anlong Veng in northern Cambodia was "chaotic", and that the guerrillas, after failing to agree on future strategy, had broken into three feuding factions.

"There is fighting at two places south of Anlong Veng, and near the Thai border Khmer Rouge skirmished with government troops," said the official, who has access to military reports. "The situation is extremely confused, and our army is trying to stay quiet as the Khmer Rouge fight it out among themselves."

The two alleged Khmer Rouge hostages are Noun Chea, the so-called "Brother Number Two", and Khieu Samphan, a supposedly moderate member of the guerrilla leadership who has said he wants to enter the Cambodian political mainstream.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the First Co-Prime Minister, says Pol Pot is in poor health, is being carried on a hammock and is on the verge of being captured by the breakaway factions now controlling Anlong Veng, a series of small villages.

Prince Ranariddh's royalist Funcinpec party wants a deal with the remnants of the Khmer Rouge to bring Khieu Samphan into political life as a bulwark against the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) leader, Hun Sen, who is Second Co-Prime Minister.

The CPP looks in a good position to defeat Funcinpec in elections due to be held next year. Most of its leaders are former Khmer Rouge who had split with Pol Pot. They want to see Khmer Rouge leaders put on trial.

Democrats prepare to disrupt handover

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S Democratic Party may commit civil disobedience on the night of the handover to China, an act that will test the resolve of the Chief Executive-designate, Tung Chee-hwa, "not to make martyrs of the Democrats".

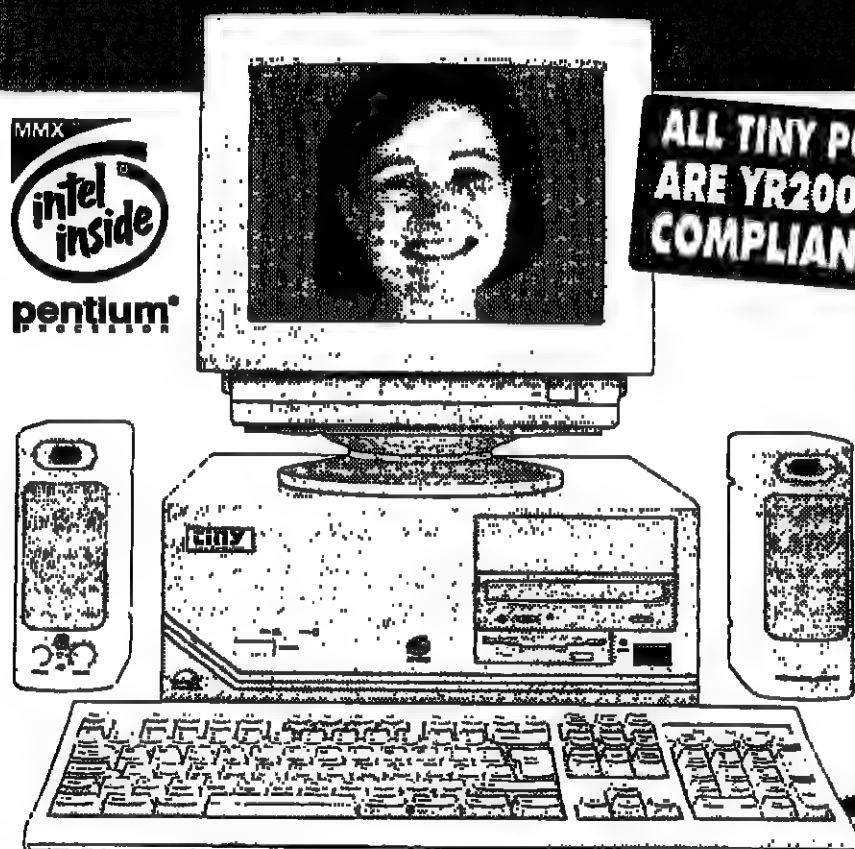
Last night, Martin Lee, chairman of the Democrats, who dominate the elected Legislative Council, said that at 1am on July 1, one hour after the formal ceremonies transferring sovereignty of Hong Kong to China, he and eight colleagues would attempt to enter the legislature. He aims to deliver a speech on freedom from the balcony to a crowd waiting below.

None of the Democrats will be members of the legislature by then because at the stroke of midnight their places will have been taken by the Chinese-appointed Provisional Legislative Council.

The Democrats intend to force their way in just before the swearing-in, at the new Convention Centre, of the Chinese body. Mr Lee's supporters are to gather outside the assembly from 10pm to protest at what they claim is an illegal usurpation of the legally constituted legislature.

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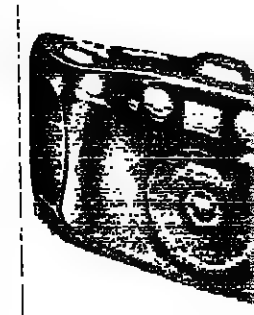
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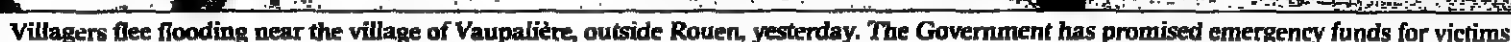


FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

The allegations have highlighted the desperate and lawless state of affairs in the Far East, where Yevgeni Nazdratenko, the regional governor,

The gun-running racket is probably responsible for a spate of huge explosions over the past four years at military arsenals, which on occasion

□ **Minister's protest:** Boris Nemtsov, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister, refused to meet Sir Leon Brittan, the European Trade Commissioner, yesterday in protest against EU anti-dumping measures, including import duties, against Russian pipe and tube manufacturers, officials said (*Reuters*).



FROM ADAM SAGE
IN SERIES

A mother and her two children, aged three and seven, were killed by the mudslide as they tried to reach their car in the village of

French firefighters used helicopters to rescue dozens of other people stranded in villages. Many victims were plucked from the roofs of their houses.

Daniel Lefebvre, head of maintenance at the local coun-

Yesterday the French Government invoked its "natural disaster plan" to help the 1,000 families whose homes were

flooded by the hour-long storm. Under the plan, emergency funds will be made available to help people to *repair damage to their houses* or find a new place to live.

In Normandy, the flooding launched a fierce debate over the removal of hedgerows in recent years. Ecologists claim that the hedgerows that once covered Normandy would have prevented the flooding and saved lives.

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN HARARE

The three countries say they have more elephants than their land can support and that money from the sales would go back into conservation and development of remote areas where the animals live.

BY ADAM SAGE

This is a mistake, according to Christine Joveux, a leading dietician, who

Her warning was echoed by another nutritionist, Jean-Marie Bourre, who said the French could lose their reputation as a nation of relatively few heart attacks. Although they are five times less likely to die of heart disease than the British, M. Bourre said: "If you eat badly at 20, it can mean cardiovascular problems at 50."



FROM SAM KILEY IN POTCHERSTROOM

When the AWB last took up arms and attempted to take over Bophuthatswana in 1994,

Judge Chris Exteen, dismissed the defence argument that the AWB leader, convicted last month, was a "man of peace who wanted to establish a state by negotiation, not violence". Mr Exteen said that he was a "violent man motivated by hatred of blacks".

The compromise enabled BA to resume normal service on its 30 daily flights from the main Paris airport of Charles de Gaulle for the first time

Managers said the resumption of flights between France and Algeria, where 60,000 people have lost their lives in a five-year civil war, represented a risk to BA's customers and staff.

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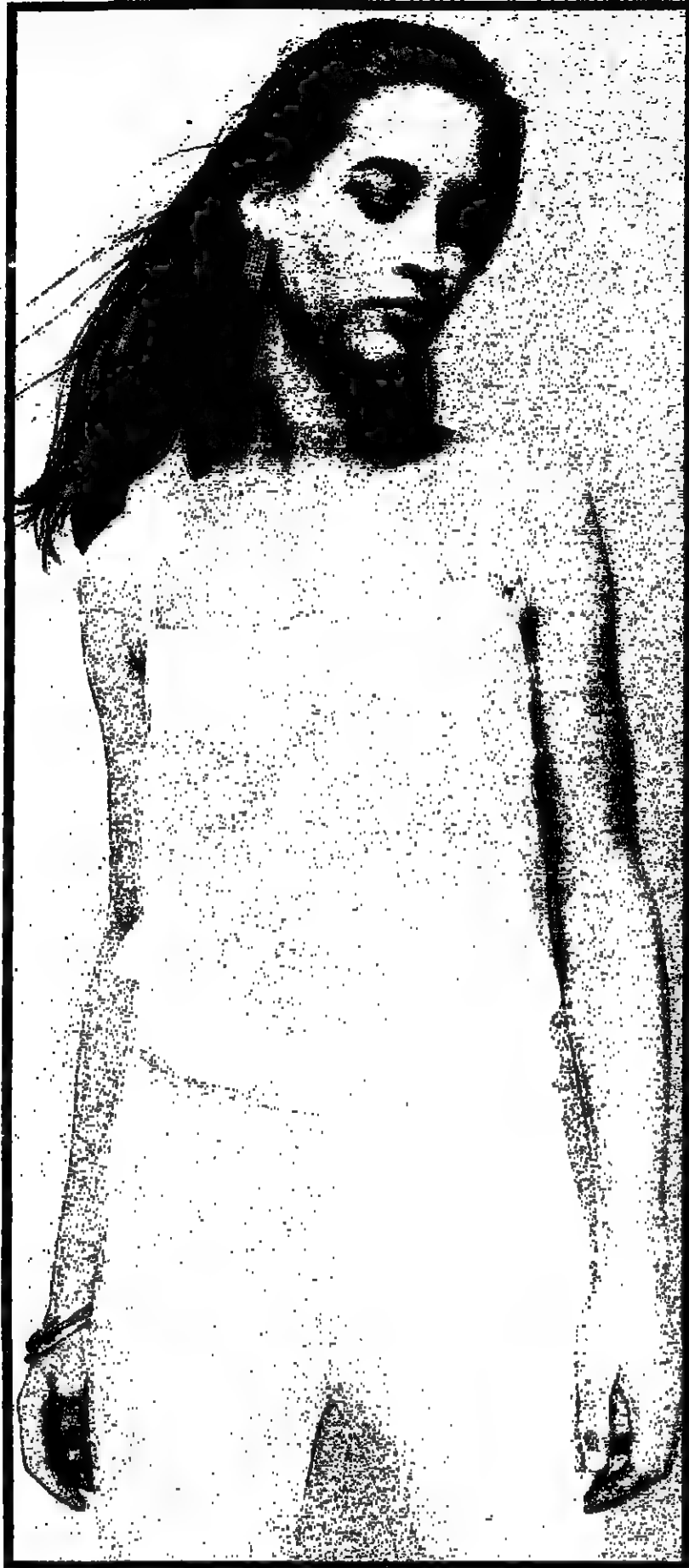
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MINOLTA

Going flat out for a stylish summer

Style Editor Grace Bradberry chooses four of the best flat-fronted trousers



ABOVE: Brown and red multi-layered top, £420 by Calvin Klein at Harvey Nichols. Brown trousers, £360 by Gudet, 33 Old Bond Street, W1.

LEFT: Green beaded corset, £99 by Nicole Farhi at Harrod's. Jersey trousers, £890 (as part of a suit) by Dolce & Gabbana, 175 Sloane Street, SW1.

FAR RIGHT: Nude jersey top, £259 and beige check trousers, £275 both by Cerruti 1881, 108 New Bond Street, W1.

RIGHT: Floral chiffon top, £254 by Clements Ribetto at Toklo, 309 Brompton Road, SW3. Blue trousers, £110 by Miu Miu at Harvey Nichols.

Photographer: FRANCK SALVARE
Stylist: Joan Campbell
Hair: Maryn Gayle for Maryn Gayle Hairdressing, 0171 792 5656.
Make-up: Stephanie Jenkins
Model: Shanna at Boss



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Invasion of the celebrities

I was the jawbone that did it. There was something distinctive about the tall, scrawny blonde in the Ray-Bans sitting sullenly next to me. She wasn't that pretty, or even that original. She looked like an Identikit of every other girl in Notting Hill — flared denim, leather coat, short, jagged hair. But there was something vaguely familiar about her. It wasn't until she opened her mouth to order a cappuccino and out came a whiny California drawl that I clocked her.

"Oh Christ," I said, nudging my friend Allegra. "It's bloody Gwyneth Paltrow." We were sitting in our local coffee bar on Westbourne Grove, 206, on a hot Saturday in June and there she was — another celebrity invading our turf.

Two days later, I went to my gym and was stuffing my grimy possessions into a locker when I walked... Kate Moss. Not only was it Kate Moss, but it was Kate Moss wearing Manolo Blahnik stilettos, a floaty purple dress, full stage make-up, antique jewellery and a sun-kissed glow. To the gym, Kate, like Gwyneth, was petulant. When

You can't walk around Notting Hill without seeing a famous face and the locals don't like it, says Janine di Giovanni

her companion pointed out a blowdryer latched to the wall and suggested Kate use it, the supermodel pouted and whispered in a baby voice: "But I don't know how to do my own hair." On Saturday I sat next to Jade Jagger and her boyfriend, Guan, having brunch in the Mas Café. It was very disconcerting because I seem to know more about their relationship than I really want to thanks to their selling their romantic story to *Hello!*

What, oh what, has happened to Notting Hill? I admit it has always been trendy: always been bohemian, always been, to a certain extent, the cutting edge, but now it is simply out of hand. I got used to seeing Antonia Fraser or Mariella Frostrup or Bjork in the gym, but that was fine because they were low-key locals. They wait in queues patiently like the rest of us. They don't want people to know who they are.

But now, a new assault. An even trendier, even more ad-

vanced form of celebrity has attacked my streets. I cannot go to my newsagent without bumping into Ralph Fiennes buying *Hello!* Damon from Blur is always in Wild Oats, the health food shop. And today, drinking coffee in Tum's (Tom Conran's *traiteur*, which I regard with the possessive instinct of a mother lion), I saw a famous American television journalist who everyone calls the Six Million Dollar Woman because she gets paid so much. It confirmed my worst suspicions.

My once cosy neighbourhood is rapidly changing. Hugh Grant's film, *Notting Hill*, is being filmed here. It is the "prequel" of *Four Weddings and A Funeral*, which means I will have to share my table at Tom's with Duckface and Liz Hurley. The film version of Bridget Jones's diary is being written so that Bridget and her friend Shaz will also be Notting Hill residents. Paul Smith has just bought the old Notting Hill landmark L'Artiste Assoiffé to turn into a gigantic, trendy emporium. Ghost, the overpriced hippy clothes shop, is coming soon.

All this means death to us locals. It means that even more Japanese tourists and Notting Hill wannabes will arrive. Personally, this means big changes. It means I have to brush my hair before I get the papers because I am afraid of whom I will bump into. Why can't these fancy people stay in South Kensington or Mayfair? Because, according to the latest property news, Notting Hill has just surpassed Mayfair in prices. Which means

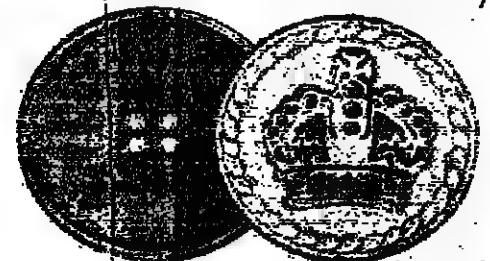
that the real Notting Hill people, the ones who have lived here for years, are rapidly moving out. Eric Richmond, a photographer who has lived in Pembridge Crescent for 20 years, is moving to a massive loft in the East End with his wife, Alison. They are the kind of people I thought would never leave. But Eric is adamant. Notting Hill is no more. I am also worried about the real locals, the mainly West Indian community who are being pushed further and further north. Soon there will be nowhere for them to go. All Saints Road used to be a front

line where you went to buy dope or vinyl reggae. Today there are rows of trendy restaurants and a design shop with plastic chairs in the window, and the new Alistair Little around the corner.

Is nothing sacred? To assuage my rage at the invasion of my neighbourhood, I phoned my mother. She usually has the ability to soothe me. "I saw Kate Moss naked in my gym the other day," I reported bitchily. "She has terrible bandy legs. And I saw Gwyneth Paltrow drinking coffee in MY coffee bar. She was rude to the waiter." "Kate who?" she asked, puzzled. "And Gwyneth Paltrow? Oh darling, never mind Gwyneth. Was she there with Brad?"

● Jane Skilling is away

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Hotline to Heaven

Neale Donald Walsch claims to talk to God. Now His conversations are topping the US bestseller lists. Interview by Susan Ellicott

In Neale Donald Walsch's rendition, God sounds like a theological version of the Nike slogan: Just Do It. Everything is acceptable in God's sight, he says. There's no such thing as sin. No evil. No right. No wrong. We're all imperfect, yet perfect in our own special way. He says God advised him to "Decide who you are — who you want to be — and then do everything in your power to be that." And, more provocatively, "I do not love good more than I love bad. Hitler went to Heaven."

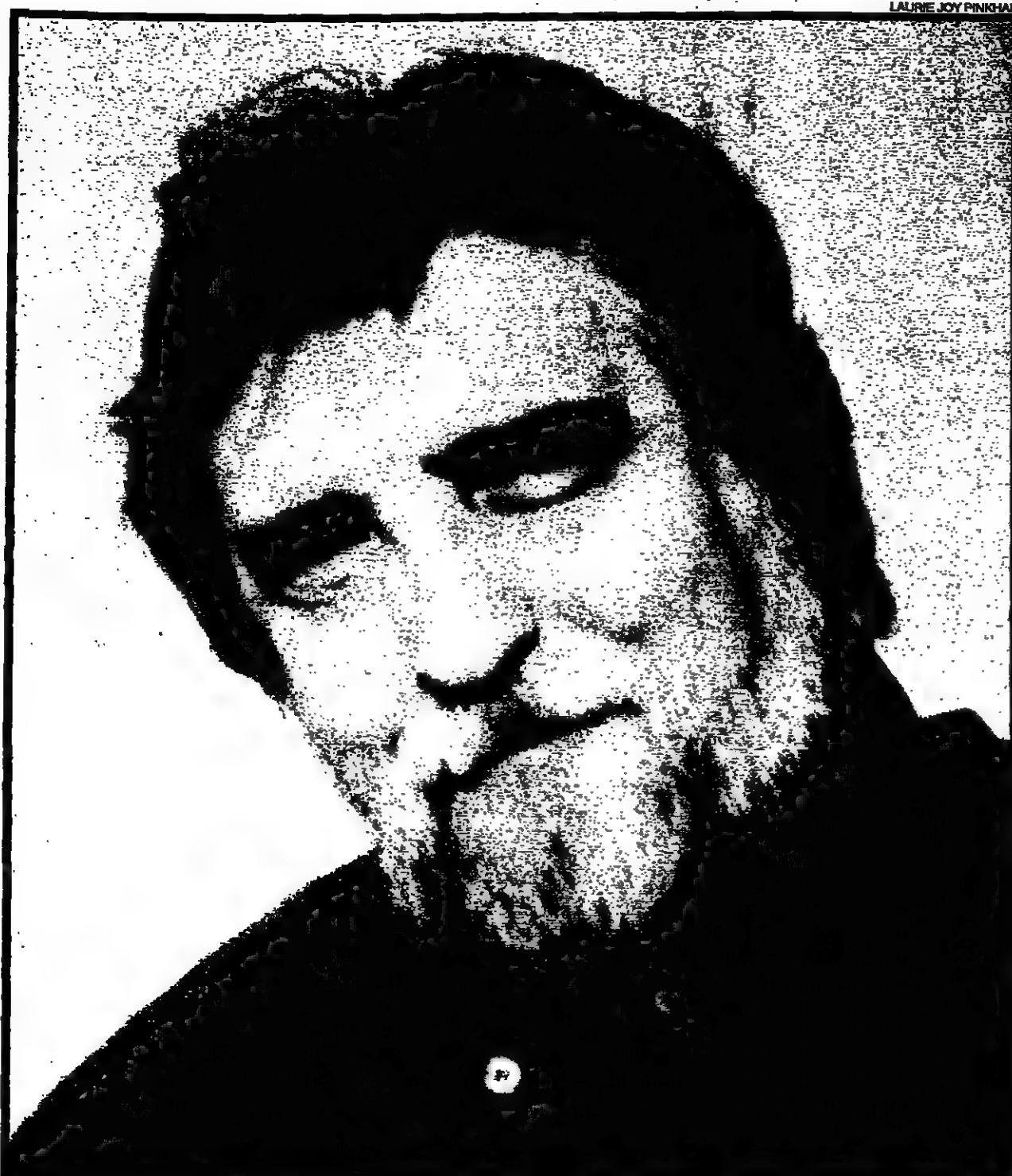
Walsch, a former radio talk show host with five ex-wives, is America's latest divine messenger. Five years ago he was out of work and broke. Today, he's part New Age guru, part publishing phenomenon, the author of two bestselling books that claim to record verbatim his discussions with God on topics as diverse as sex, careers, more sex, happiness, US foreign policy, education, capitalism and the minimum wage. This odd couple even banter about time travel and extraterrestrials. (Walsch reports that God believes in both.)

"I reinvite you to explore the questions of life," he says. "When literature does that, it serves the world." The second volume of Walsch's *Conversations with God: an uncommon dialogue* landed in US bookshops last month and already is smuggled up against volume one in the Top Ten of *The New York Times* non-fiction bestsellers' list.

Yet Walsch insists that he didn't really "write" either of them. They "happened" to him. Five years ago, depressed, angry and out of work after being sacked, he began a spiritual letter to God, asking when he would ever be financially stable and lucky in love. The pen began moving on its own, he says, and soon he was taking dictation from God onto a yellow legal pad most nights — usually around about 11pm — an experience he likens to "the afterglow following a sexual encounter."

God exhibits a quippy sense of humour. He's sometimes a She. He's sarcastic. He even uses the occasional four-letter word. And so attuned is this Almighty to today's individualistic culture that He/She urges Walsch and his readers to practise saying three key phrases ten times a day: I LOVE SEX, I LOVE MONEY and I LOVE ME. (And those are God's capitals, not mine.)

People magazine put *Conversations 1* on its list of worst books for 1996. But Walsch is unfazed. "These are the home movies of my mind," he says. "The personal sacred process of communicating with myself." Walsch is Religion Lite



The gospel according to Walsch: the former talk show host says there is no such thing as sin or evil, no right or wrong

in a nation awash with Diet Coke and fat-free Häagen-Dazs, the latest in a long tradition of populist spiritual guides. Walsch's God sanctions homosexual and extramarital sex, though he would prefer us to cut out meat and alcohol. (The scribe himself is a vegetarian.)

The *New York Times* magazine dubbed Walsch's writing as "guilt-free reassurance", but in America's post-Oprah, dysfunctional society, his unsaintliness sells big. Extra-marital affairs? Yes. A court tangle over support payments to his nine children? Yes. But the fans don't care. He's moved on. He's truly sorry. And they can relate to him.

Conversations doesn't touch you here," says Jay Boit, a photographer who has read volume one five times, tapping his head. "It gets you here. In the heart." But how did Walsch know it was God talking and not his imagination when the pen first moved? He says he didn't, but he sent his manuscript to a handful of small publishers, figuring that if they were interested, it must be true. The rest, as they say, is publishing history. The first print run of

5,000 paperbacks, released by a tiny company in Virginia, Hampton Roads Publishing, sold out from New Age stores in two months. When sales, after re-prints, reached 100,000, the publishing titan Putnam stepped in and, according to the trade press, shelled out a seven-figure fee for hard-cover rights. At this stage, Walsch questions whether it matters if it's really God talking to him or not. He's grateful for *People's* put-down — "million-dollar publicity" — and discounts disdain from the mainstream media as his final comeuppance after his own 17 years in journalism.

But why would God pick Walsch? The author believes it is because of his very ordinariness. He grew up a Roman Catholic, the son of a Polish father and a German mother, in a gritty area of industrial Milwaukee. He says he loved God "enormously" as a child, but was dropped as an altar boy at the age of 12 by a mother superior when he was late for a procession. "I couldn't understand a God who would do that," he says. The aggrieved child grew disenchanted with the formal teachings of the Church. As an adult, he refused to accept that God would punish anyone for eating meat on a Friday or banish unbaptised dead babies to Limbo. At last, he says, he has found a God he can love — though his new role sometimes can be quite a burden. "It's rather like the Royal Family," says Walsch. "There are simply things one can't do if one has any sense of responsibility to those who

look up to one." Success has transformed his life, he says, although Nancy, his sixth wife, is his true salvation. Officially, they live in a modest two-bedroom bungalow in Ashland, Oregon, with his golden shepherd, Lady, although book tours and lucrative speaking engagements keep them on the road for about 30 weeks a year.

His worst fear? That he might have become "a quasi rock star for God."

This bear of a man with unruly grey hair and peachy writer's hands quotes from speeches with which he identifies, including Shakespeare's "some have greatness thrust upon them" and Robert Kennedy's "of those to whom much is given, much is asked".

Has he noticed that God's syntax is strikingly similar to his own? "God chooses to turn up in people's lives the way that is most acceptable," he says. "Clearly, if He wants me to notice Him, He's not going to show up as a Hindu."

Those who doubt whether God showed up for Walsch at all include Walsch's home newspaper, *The Oregonian*. Last year it noted that the message of *Conversations* was eerily similar to that of a book called *Hitler Went to Heaven*, written in 1982 by a Neale Marshall Walsch before he changed his name to Bob White, the radio host, and later to Neale Donald Walsch. When confronted, the best-selling author said he had "forgotten all about" the earlier book. One thing, however, is certain. Walsch's God has a head

Paedophile compulsions must be recognised

Liberal conscience or criminal negligence?

No burglar has ever offered as his defence the belief that his victim really wanted to have the tea service pinched; no bank robber has ever told a court that the cashiers got a thrill from having his sawn-off shotgun poked in their faces. If convicted criminals understand nothing else they usually understand that they have broken the law.

Not so paedophiles. As Kilroy showed yesterday, one trait common to so many paedophiles is the belief that society has got them, and their victims, wrong. Sex between adults and children is, they believe, not only natural but desirable — desired by both adult and child alike. And unlike the rapist who might also claim to be convinced of his victim's collusion, the paedophile doesn't even acknowledge the implicit, if not actual, violence of his act.

The man on Kilroy made no bones about not feeling guilty about his behaviour. More he says he can't change and won't change. Why should he, if he hasn't done anything wrong? Now, you could argue that you have

yet to hear a convincing argument against passing a law to prevent any child molester or convicted paedophile from working with children ever again.

I know that as a result of this column, I will get letters from self-confessed paedophiles, assuring me that I have got it all wrong, that they are not forcing themselves on children, that the children welcome their advances and that the only problem is a blinkered society that cannot accept the sexuality of minors.

Such people feel compelled to act in this way. The desire to work with children, to be near them, is part of this compulsion. They don't deny it: why should we?

PERHAPS Naomi Campbell was feeling a bit jealous of all the attention that Jerry Hall has been getting recently. Her recent escapade — which flies in with a campaign she is about to launch for her own make of jeans — has certainly given her a lot of publicity.

The story has been, for those of you innocent of such ephemera, that she had a



Nigella Lawson

furiously row with her Spanish fiancé after he was photographed with — in gossip columnese — "a mysterious woman" and she then was rushed to hospital with a suspected overdose.

She waves the story away with an airy "Do I look like I'm distraught, that I have just tried to commit suicide?" This is a difficult line for a model to take. Models are hired precisely to be a blank and beautiful canvas: most of them (though not Naomi I'm sure) are up all night snorting cocaine and then successfully posing as unblemished English roses the next day.

But the most beguiling part of Naomi's defence is her protestation to GMTV yesterday morning: "I don't speak any Spanish and Joaquin doesn't speak any English so how could we row anyway?" Whatever it says about the current state of their relationship, it does seem a very curious basis for an engagement.

I DON'T think we should be paying too much attention to the growlers and nay sayers, who are outstripping themselves in their vilification of the proposed Dome in Greenwich. Certainly, it would be foolish of Tony Blair and his Cabinet colleagues to pay any attention to them tomorrow.

The Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Festival of Britain a century later were no less rubbished before the event and were enormously popular afterwards. All you need to do here is plan something monumental and exciting and the British will moan about it. It's our way, that's all.

But a new strand has been woven in: our ever-growing anti-metropolitanism. If the Dome had been planned for somewhere people don't want to go, no one would be quick to contest it. But if it's in London it must be bad, must be unfair and must be an insult to all the other cities.

A capital is, by definition, a position only one city can occupy. Regionality is all very well, but London is our capital. It should be treated as one, be celebrated as one: it does, after all, go with the territory.

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have I got trews
for you...

Fifty-two years ago, almost to the day, I was chosen to stand beside Winston Churchill on a makeshift podium in the playground of Ouside Primary School, Southgate, and, with him, sing for England. We sang that there would always be one Winston. I remember, was wearing a navy boiler suit topped by his father's newspaper-stuffed porkpie hat and carrying a cardboard cigar, and I was wearing the khaki battledress of the Infant Cadet Force topped by a black beret with matching boot-polish moustache, as our two unbroken glottises trilled in wobbly celebration of VE-Day. Yes — and I have waited half a century for the right moment to make this joke — I was Monty's treble.

The right moment has come because, as you may have spotted in the weekend press, the original of that beret is about to be auctioned, at an estimated knockdown of £7,000. Quite how such estimates are arrived at I cannot imagine. I do not know whether the price is set by historic-hat collectors eager to shelf the beret alongside Florence's bonnet and Isambard's stovepipe, or whether there are Montiana freaks jumping up and down out there because they already have his baton or his compass or his dentures. There may even be rich madmen who, unable to get their hands on Napoleon's bicorne, will opt for second-best to enable them to strut around their estates shouting orders at the rhododendrons, but there you have it, or you will for seven grand, a hat that could have been bought in 1940 for two bob has, as the result of being on the right head at the moment the El Alamein night was lit by that photographic barrage, has turned out to be a major hedge against inflation. A tremendous investment, albeit a bitter pill for anyone in possession of Auchinleck's bits and bobs: had Churchill not asked Monty to step into his shoes in August 1942, you might today be looking at five figures for the left shoe alone. God knows what a matched pair would fetch, but that's the market forces for you.

It is also the nub and crux of our business this morning. For the world is full of citizens kicking themselves for not having snapped up relics when the price was rock-bottom, only to see them turning canny paupers into millionaires at the drop of a gavel. The elusive trick is to spot potential fame, to have the acumen to be passing the right duffin when the teenage Madonna went up a bra size and threw her first one out. This is a gift bestowed upon only the very few.

And it just so happens that I suddenly find myself in a position to bestow it. While I cannot of course guarantee the infallibility of your investment, I am prepared, for a ludicrously small consideration, to let you in on the ground-floor of a possibly major financial coup. To offer you, that is, an unprecedented chance to cash in on what, after the worms sit burping around my supine dust, might just turn out to be a reputation fit to keep encyclopaedia writers in work for years and compel future salerooms to take on whole armies of extra staff.

Why wait for prices to boom beyond reach? Why fiddle around with building society deposits at 5 per cent or take dangerous punts on fifty shares, when for a mere handful of notes you could own an original Coren tracksuit today, actually worn while this article (or, as it will later be known, British Museum MS 68854-4a) was being written? Or a rare monogrammed pewter mug which once hung on its very own peg in the Cricklewood Tavern during the height of that creative period when its owner came in on a daily basis to think about writing the major novel which will unquestionably turn out to be tragically missing from his posthumous effects?

And as if all this was not enough, smaller investors among you should note that the author will also be signing his latest vests at John Lewis, Brent Cross, between 10am and 5.30pm, weekdays only. As the first edition is limited to 500 only, don't be late.

And don't worry: it is merely the Office of Fair Trading regulations which require me to remind you that prices can go down as well as up.

Right elevation



MILLENNIUM DOME FIASCO - WILL IT STILL GO AHEAD?

Champion of the sceptics

In Tony Blair Britain has at last a leader
in a position not just to lecture Europe on
its wicked ways — but to be heard

In Amsterdam they riot. In France they fight. In Britain they dare from the depths of think-tanks and gobble up Tory parties. At this week's Euro-summit, they "vomit against Europe". Nowhere have they charismas or the big idea. Europe's famed sceptics have lacked a leader since the fall of Margaret Thatcher. They are a Reformation without a Luther.

Now they have one. He is Tony Blair. In a dazzling series of appearances on the European stage, he has conveyed the same message with the same body-language. Europe is rotten. Its leaders are out of date. New Britain knows the true way. This is the message of the Single European Act, of Thatcher's Bruges speech, of British negotiators through the Nineties. What is new is the messenger. Mr Blair has the political authority to bring scepticism to the heart of Europe, to preach it from the pulpit, not hedge from the pews. In Amsterdam this week, he carried the flag with confidence.

The story begins with Mr Blair's first Eurosommits at Noordwijk on May 23. He was asked whether he enjoyed meeting his fellow European leaders. "Yes," he replied, but added gratuitously, "I would not be enthralled to be told it had to go on for another day." More days there have been, and plenty more to come. The message has become more strident with the pettiness of summit discussion, the irrelevance of these interminable feast days. They are like an Elizabethan royal progress, glorious for the monarchs but humiliating for the subjects. Two days in Amsterdam reportedly cost £10 million. Britain's European presidency next year must be a lesson in economy. Mr Blair should meet his guests quietly and feed them in restaurants. Their glided retinues can look after themselves.

This is just surface tension. The Government has found itself fighting the old fight for British beef and fish and for the opt-out on border control. It has fought against a European army, against the farm policy and against bureaucracy. Baroness Thatcher and John Major regarded all this as incubus, a purr bureaucratic growth that rotted their party. Mr Blair's irritation is based, for the present, on an acceptance that Europe must reform. It is *de jure* and *de facto* part of Britain's commercial life. He offers more than Tory scepticism with added grin.

I see no trace in Mr Blair's Europe speeches of the federalism that has been moribund since Jacques Delors and his court left Brussels. He is pledged to sign the notorious social chapter, but excuses rather than boasts it. His spin-doctors stress that there is no need for early implementation. More significant has been the relentless criticism of the corporatism of other governments. Mr Blair's every speech has the same subplot, setting an unreconstructed, sluggardly Continent against a dynamic, open-market, "flexible" Britain.

Labour's election victory brought Britain no closer to corporatist Europe. Quite the opposite. At Noordwijk Mr Blair tore up club rules before even meeting the Hon Sec. "There must be a radical shift in Europe's horizons," he said. His declared five priorities were symbolic: "Completing the single market and freeing trade; enlarging the Community; reforming the common agricultural policy; launching a crusade for competitiveness and job flexibility; seeking real co-operation in foreign affairs." Nowhere in this list were the warhorses of the Rhine axis, more job creation, more regional subsidies, more integrated European institutions, more extended majority voting, let alone the beehive-jumble of a single currency.

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In Malmö on June 6, Mr Blair repeated his message. He told his socialist comrades that Europe was "impossibly remote from the people... over-burdened with bureaucracy... its labour market lacking in flexibility". In Bonn he visited the hard-pressed Chancellor Kohl and told him that a single currency would never work unless Germany "modernised its economy". This, from a British Prime Minister of the Left to a German Chancellor of the Right.

The new French Prime Minister,

Lionel Jospin, is to Mr Blair akin to Lambert council on a bad night. M Jospin is from the Dark Ages. He wants Europe's taxpayers to help to finance 700,000 new jobs in his country, half of them in the public sector. He is pledged not to privatise his inefficient airline or his railway. His party is demanding a shorter working week, more pay for state employees and a higher minimum wage. The British Chancellor, Gordon Brown, gave this short shrift. He replied that raising "the job-creating potential of the EU economies" must not mean state corporatism. It meant "a flexible labour force that thrives on competitive, deregulated markets, worker retraining and a reformed welfare state".

By this Monday in Amsterdam Mr Blair was parading as a fully-fledged Iron Man of Europe. France and Germany had agreed a job creation package to gloss over deep differences on the Maastricht criteria. Mr Blair welcomed their wish for higher employment, but he denounced squandering EU cash on "supposed" job-creation schemes and the reviled "state intervention". Jobs were about employability, education, skills and our flexible friend, "labour markets responsive to economic change". For good measure, other states should reform their welfare state and not fudge the single currency criteria. The message is clear. If Europe's leaders expect British taxes and labour restrictions to help feather their political nests and to avoid the structural upheavals of Britain in the Eighties, they can think again. His audience must have sighed for that nice lady with the handbag.

Nor is this play-acting by a new Cabinet thrilled by its international sex appeal. It is the authentic voice of Britain-in-Europe, singing from a new song-sheet. It is the Britain of free trade, subsidiarity, national autonomy and minimal bureaucracy. Just as political

revolutions are most effective when launched from an unexpected quarter, so Mr Blair's scepticism comes as a greater shock to those who thought Labour would be a soft touch in Europe. Images of Mr Blair sitting on Herr Kohl's knee are long forgotten. Even under Labour, Britain is firmly on Europe's right wing.

We must accept that the diplomatic blitzkrieg may pass. Many former Prime Ministers have sought to bend Europe to the British view. Crushed by the chicanery and irrelevance of Euro-summits, they folded their tents and crept back across the Channel. Bureaucracy continued to burgeon. The failure to "reform the CAP" rankled. Why waste time at the heart of Europe, they said, if its corrupted bloodstream uses a bypass valve? Better to sit and whinge on the fringe.

Mr Blair is a Eurosceptic but not (yet) a Eurocynic. He seems to be taking the tide at the flood. He enjoys political supremacy in his own country at a moment of self-doubt elsewhere. Every country includes opposition to the federalist racket and to the single currency. The "Anglo-Saxon path" of open trade and flexible labour markets is looking good. Mr Blair is like Tamino after trial by fire and water. Thanks to the Thatcher revolution, he can blow his magic flute round the platforms of Europe and nobody dares shout him down. The British way is market-tested.

The withdrawal lobby will, of course, have none of this. As the rest of Europe goes to hell in a handcart, it would prefer to see Britain stay well away, watching, pickling and minding. The British economy is in strong heart, despite rather than because of the European link. There is no train leaving any station, no plane about to take off, no fast track, no silly metaphor. There is just the restless churning of the diplomatic elite, making work for themselves. Leave them alone.

Mr Blair disagrees. He argues that the European Union is a close trading partner that may be about to debilitate itself with a half-baked single currency. Britain's interest lies in averting that disaster. For once the field of Europe might be ready for a British plough. Mr Blair may be unique among Britain's postwar leaders. He may be in a position not just to lecture Europe on its evil ways, but also to be heard. That is scepticism to a purpose.

Simon Jenkins

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The Turner
pickles its
sacred cows

Time for a new art
prize, says Rachel
Campbell-Johnston

Prizes are better left to dogs or pots of marmalade than to artists. There are simple criteria for judging the gloss of a coat or the zest of preserved citrus. But can artists really be compared? One person's perception of truth, one individual's cultural interpretation, cannot be ranked above another's. Yet it is exactly this that the Turner Prize pretends to do every year. And every year promoters, patrons and participants alike play along. The pretence is becoming increasingly flimsy.

Twelve months ago the Turner Prize jury was unable to come up with a single female artist deemed worthy of its shortlist. There was a stinging backlash. This year, apparently, the achievements of women so overshadow those of the men that the latter are excluded. Nor is there a single painter on the shortlist. This suffocating narrowness defeats the purpose of the prize.

Nicholas Serota, the chairman of the Turner jury and director of the Tate Gallery, which stages a show of the shortlisted work, has suggested that the purpose of the prize is "to bring new developments in the visual arts to the attention of the people who are interested in the culture of our time, but who do not regularly visit commercial galleries in London and the regions, or exhibitions of British art abroad". In short, the Turner Prize is an annual showcase of contemporary British art for the arm-chair culture-vulture who wants a summary of developments without going to the trouble of trekking from Hackney to Hull. Its aim is to set dinner-tables humming with state of the arts argument and indignation.

If this year's provocative list attains this end it will be for the wrong reasons. The selection of an all-female shortlist appears to be a stalling move designed to serve the shallow purpose of promotion, rather than art. The Turner Prize thrives because it is about focusing the media spotlight on itself, about transforming what would be just another exhibition into an event. In these terms it has had spectacular success.

But to attain this sort of success the artists must dovetail neatly with promotional ends. Probably the best known on this year's list is 40-year-old Cornelia Parker. She rose to wide recognition with her 1995 Serpentine installation *The Maybe*, in which an actress lay, a silent breathing effigy, inside a glass case. This probably owed its impact more to Tilda Swinton — she had recently played the title role in the film *Orlando* — than to imaginative profundity. Undoubtedly this laconic "exploration of the enigma of mortality" had a certain memorable beauty. But surely mortality, that most time-honoured of artistic subjects, has been explored at least as creatively, albeit in a more traditional medium, by such painters as Ken Currie or Jenny Saville.

Another of the shortlisted artists, Gillian Wearing, first burst into the public arena as part of Damien Hirst's *Freeze* exhibition in 1988. Her confessional audio-recordings and videos delve into the fears and fantasies, the secrets and the aspirations of ordinary people. *10-16* is a series of filmed vignettes in which adult actors lip-synch to a soundtrack of the voices of children. A schoolgirl brags of her toughness, but with amusing incongruity, her voice emanates from the lips of an inoffensive middle-aged woman sitting munching sandwiches. Such entertaining — if predictable — explorations of the adult in the child might be quickly forgotten, were it not for the footage of a naked male dwarf, prostrate in the bath, mouthing the words of a confused boy declaring that he would like to kill his mother because she has been a lesbian.

Novelty and shock, contented by arcane explanation, have become the yearly familiar language of the Turner Prize. This is not to suggest that all its supporters are pseuds, any more than its critics are philistines. Christine Borland's fascination with bones combines a searching interest in science and history with a delicate awareness of corporeal fragility. Her subtle pieces are riddled with unexpectedly playful intimations of mortality. Angela Bulloch's inventive installations can be wittily unexpected. If nothing else they trumpet a challenge to dry conservatism.

But these bad girls of British art are in danger of succumbing to such conservatism themselves. Their formulas have been pickled — sacred cows preserved in formaldehyde. To trend the cutting edge has come to seem about as innovative as attending an evening watercolour class. In-your-face attitudes have been staring at us too long to seem brazen.

Real boldness in a Turner shortlist would be to set conceptual art in a wider arena. Instead the jury remains content merely to judge best of breed. It is time for the art world to look towards Turner to compete harder for the media attention of which it has grown lazily confident. In the literary world, the Booker Prize has had to struggle for its pre-eminence against such awards as the Whitbread, the W.H. Smith, the Somerset Maugham, and more recently the Orange Prize and the David Cohen British Literature Prize.

It is time a fresh arbiter — someone such as Charles Saatchi whose discerning tastes have helped to shape the contemporary art world — instituted a new award to challenge the Turner's narrow introspection. Art is always subjective. But if it is to be placed in the show ring, it should be judged as objectively as possible.

Scotched

THE FARCE at the Royal Opera House hit another high note yesterday with the sudden cancellation of next week's *Macbeth*, the first new production of Covent Garden's Verdi Festival and a version which has never before been professionally staged in Britain.

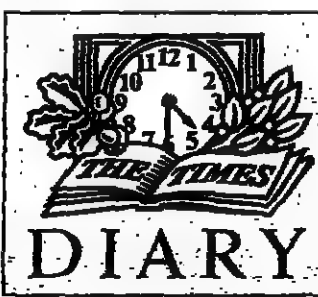
Technical problems have been blamed, although backstage staff say that the fiasco results from the number of redundancies among technicians. "They haven't enough people with the skills to put on the

production," said one. "They were trying to bring in countless dragons who hadn't a clue what to do."

Yesterday the Opera House said cancellation was likely. "But we are not going to confirm it until tomorrow. With the theatre already beginning to shut down, it puts an intolerable strain on our backstage facilities."

A delegation from Covent Garden was said to be in a crisis meeting at the Arts Council. Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, is likely to blow his bonnet when he hears the news, particularly after reports that £2.5 million of lottery money has been used to finance redundancies.

The Opera House had planned to put on *Macbeth* next Friday, followed by *Simon Boccanegra*, with Plácido Domingo in the starring role, the following night. However, two consecutive new productions appear to have been over-ambitious. The Opera House is still waiting for the arrival of its new chief executive, Mary Allen, in September but Lord Chadlington, the acting chief executive, must have decided to cut Covent Garden's losses. Experts estimate that at least £250,000 will already



have been spent on *Macbeth* which may now be staged in a concert performance.

Off the road

THE AA might be a guardian angel at the roadside, but its bedside manner is bringing down imprecations from church leaders. The new AA *Essential Phrase Book* in eight languages contains, among other things, practical advice for holidaymakers on "How to catch a girl or trap a man".

Worse still for Roman Catholics, it offers translations for "Do you have a condom?" which, in French, reads: "Tu as un preservatif".

The organisation will receive what promises to be the first of hundreds of defections today when Father Tom Connelly resigns membership after 30 years.

"I urge Catholics and other upright members to join another organisation," thunders the Catholic Church's spokesman in Scotland.

Leading rolls

THE MAIN Tory leadership campaigns chose different ways to prepare for the result of the second ballot yesterday. Ken Clarke was sighted having a leisurely lunch in the Garrick Club. Meanwhile, over at William Hague's HQ in Stafford Place, SW1, bang next door to John Redwood's house, a



"Fifty quid on the bald one in the two-horse race"

van pulled up with a delivery of smoked salmon and cases of champagne. The Hot-heads for Hague were clearly preparing for victory. The delivery man grumbled there was no one to pay him. If things continue to go Clarke's way, there may not be.

There must be an evil sense of humour at work reallocating telephone extensions on the House of Commons switchboard. 6666, the closest the Commons has to the Number of the Beast, has just been given to Margaret Hodge, MP for Barking.

Burning issue

MATTERS are going from bad to worse for Michael J. Foster, Labour MP for Hastings and Rye who, as I reported yesterday, is being confused with Michael J. Foster, Labour MP for Worcester. Foster of Hastings and Rye is making news with his call for the abolition of hunting. Foster of Worcester is a worried man. "Somebody has just threatened to burn down my house," he said yesterday. "But I've got nothing to do with the Bill."

Blairy-eyed

THERE is a hunted look about



Blair: sleepless nights

Tony Blair at the moment. He has deep bags under his eyes, the skin hangs looser on his face, he looks dog-tired. Long negotiations into the Amsterdam night cannot be helping. The trials of the general election must seem like a breeze in retrospect.

John Major, for the time being still the Leader of the Opposition, can sympathise. It did not take long for the rigours of the prime ministership to catch up with him. A few weeks in, he was shattered, not sleeping properly and with a seemingly unstoppable round of foreign and domestic chores to do.

P.H.S.



Shadows over Covent Garden

مذبح الاله



MARCHING INTO A TRAP

The IRA is setting a snare for Unionists

The Government's severest test so far comes in the first week of next month, not with its Budget, but in how it reacts to a church parade in a village in Northern Ireland. Last year the stand-off at Drumcree, when an Orange march was prevented from passing by a Roman Catholic estate, led first to civil disobedience from loyalists and then, when the march was allowed to proceed, anger and disillusionment among the nationalist population. Now, with two young police constables murdered by the IRA, the loyalist ceasefire fraying and republicans determined to assert their growing strength, the outlook is bleak.

The IRA's murder of Constable John Graham and Constable David Johnston was not an act of unthinking Provo militarism, a reflex Republican swipe. It was a calculated piece of provocation from a political movement determined to make Northern Ireland ungovernable until its demands are met. Republicans hope to provoke the loyalists into a hot-headed retaliation which will inflame nationalist feelings and exploit the greenward tilt of Dublin opinion. The loyalists would be extremely foolish to rise to the IRA's bait. They would forfeit their seat at the talks table, political influence and hard-won sympathy for their community. Those considerations, however, may not weigh with loyalists increasingly frustrated at the impunity with which the IRA acts. They must, if worse is not to follow.

The IRA is determined not to let Drumcree and the other symbolic parades of the marching season pass off peacefully. Republicans must not be allowed another victory for violence. The attachment of Ulster Protestants to their traditional parades may mystify and irritate mainland opinion. They certainly attract some of Unionism's more militant voices. They are, however, one of the last ceremonial expressions of allegiance to the Crown allowed

a community which believes its place in the United Kingdom has been slowly undermined over the past 25 years. The uncertainty Unionists feel about their constitutional position should have been considerably assuaged by the Prime Minister's recent reassurances. Unfortunately, the way in which the majority's wishes have been bypassed, especially since the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement, has led many to use whatever traditional means are available to proclaim their numbers and their principles.

For many years marches were quietly tolerated by nationalists but, recently, Sinn Féin activists have used them as opportunities for confrontation. The leaders of Orange opinion have tried this month to reach an honourable compromise over Drumcree and the leading nationalist and Unionist dailies in the Province have floated their own attempt at accommodation. Sinn Féin has, however, no motive but mayhem. Its activists will, as they have in the past, marginalise and intimidate voices seeking a settlement. That should not stop Unionists trying. Monday's murders may incline some Unionists to a hardline stance but taking an inflexible approach to marches would mean walking into a republican trap.

If Unionists abandon their attempts to make parades more palatable they will, however unfairly, be seen as provocative. If those attempts fail, and that seems likely, then the Government faces an uncomfortable choice. To ban the Drumcree parade would seem, in Unionist circles, like a surrender to republicans and the loyalist reaction could be fierce. The IRA would only pocket the concession and press for more. To allow the parade to go ahead would, however, provide republicans with a stage for civil disobedience and worse. If the Government is not to see the prospect of peace evaporate it must consider now how to meet the threat of terrorists determined on the most destructive of courses.

PRINCIPLE AND PIQUE

The Tory winner will hold only half of his domain

Last night's Conservative leadership ballot showed the party as deeply split as it could possibly be. Expectations that William Hague would draw away from the pack ought by the normal rules to have led opportunistic MPs to coalesce around the predicted winner. Instead Mr Hague and Kenneth Clarke go into the final round neck-and-neck, with the votes of John Redwood supporters determining the result.

Although Mr Hague increased his vote by more than the other contenders, it was Mr Clarke who won the battle of expectations. Few thought that he would score as many as 60 votes, let alone that he would narrowly beat his junior rival. Mr Redwood emerged a poor third, picking up the smallest number of votes from Michael Howard's and Peter Lilley's supporters, even though he was the only unequivocal candidate of the Right.

Mr Hague's relatively disappointing performance shows the extent of the doubts about his candidacy. Messrs Howard and Lilley threw their weight behind him; fewer than half their supporters followed. Some were unimpressed by his performance on Monday, when he addressed a gathering of MPs. Even if he does win tomorrow, his victory will be a poor, weak thing.

Mr Redwood's supporters, who will now determine the outcome, are faced with an unappealing choice. On one side is the man who they believe lost them the last election, whose stance on Europe is unacceptable and who despises them and their views. Moreover, Mr Clarke is by nature lazy; and the task before the new leader demands not only new thinking, which is anathema to the former Chancellor, but also a relentless and energetic rebuilding of the party and its structures. If there is one thing that Mr Clarke hates more than dining with a group of Eurosceptics, it is eating rubber chicken

with a group of would-be local councillors. Yet Mr Clarke has guts and resilience. Trimming is not in his nature. By contrast, Mr Hague's views have moved even in the past week. If he were to win, he would start to suffer John Major's problems from day one. Both the Right and the Left would try to pull him in their direction, strengthened by his haziness of opinion. The Left would have more weight than might previously have been imagined, given Mr Clarke's strong showing. The Right, though, would still make up the majority of the party.

For that reason, it would be logical for Mr Hague to win tomorrow, since his position, such as it is, sits more comfortably with that of most MPs. But logic has flown from this contest. Some Redwoodites will be tempted to vote for Mr Clarke out of fury that Mr Hague persuaded the other right-wing candidates to desert their man. Given Mr Clarke's views on Europe, this would be a triumph of pique over principle. Whatever Mr Hague's inadequacies, his stance on the single currency is far more congenial to sceptics than that of his rival.

When MPs consider either man, they find a flurry of negatives obscuring the positives. Although there were originally six candidates in this contest, there was none obviously better than the others. Had there been, there might have been no need for a third ballot.

As it is, the race is still open. And even if Mr Clarke loses, he is likely to come a fairly close second. In that case, Mr Hague would have to offer him a big job — running the risk of Mr Clarke fostering divisions either in the Shadow Cabinet or, if he refuses the conditions of the offer, on the back benches. The Tories, as Mr Major discovered, have become almost ungovernable. One thing is sure: whichever man wins tomorrow will carry authority over only half his domain.

ON THEIR BIKES

European agreement can come in only by bicycle

Euro summits make heavy politics. The meeting of European leaders that ended yesterday had the classic ingredients of Euro fudge. For everybody could claim to have won the serial caucus race, and so each had a prize. Summits are rounded off by symbolism as well as by signatures to protocols. As the Commission President, Jacques Santer, said afterwards, echoing the Dodo to Alice: "There are no losers, only winners."

But the master symbol of this summit was the bicycle. The Mayor of Amsterdam's presentation of bicycles to the Prime Ministers and Presidents was a shrewd gimmick from the most cycle-friendly nation in Europe. With more than one bicycle a head of population and not a hill in sight Amsterdam is a city that runs on pedals even more than Oxford. The bike is ecologically friendly and demotic. Wary of hospital bills and bad publicity, the Mayor warned the statesmen of the hazards of canals. And the Dutch cycle frames were all of one size but strong enough to take the biggest political frames.

So yesterday's bicycle race of leading European statesmen made the parable as well as the photo-opportunity of the summit. Tony Blair, who had earlier called for a change in gear to bring Europe closer to its citizens, was the first to cross the finishing line, pumping new Labour, new leg-power. The Dutch Premier, Wim Kok, and the

Austrian Chancellor, Viktor Klima, were with him in the first bunch. Even the portly Belgian Prime Minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, who is more suitably built for roll-on, roll-off ferries than pedalling, joined in.

But the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, the French President, Jacques Chirac, and the European Commission President, Jacques Santer, politely refused to mount their Dutch gifts, as though they were Trojan horses. They may have been afraid of losing their dignity. Because of years of chauffeured-driven isolation, they may have forgotten one of the first adult skills a child learns. Or they may simply have been disinclined to gratify the photographers, the sarcastic spectators and the Mayor.

But they were wrong. For the bicycle is a simple modern symbol with which all can identify. Even the great men of this world should never become too grand to show a golden calf or risk making fools of themselves. In his brief spurt to glory Mr Blair demonstrated that he was prepared to blend the common touch with a signal to his EU colleagues that he meant to lead from the front. And the course for the premier bicyclists was only about 100 yards long anyway. The British should lead in Europe. And the best model for political advance is not the jet with variable geometry or the train or the limousine, but the people's bike.

'Shambles' of UK electoral law

From Professor Iain McLean and Professor R. J. Johnston

Sir, Your report on the important items in the Home Office in-tray ("Reformer Straw on parole", June 12) is notable for what it omits. Jack Straw's responsibilities include the conduct of elections.

His predecessor, Michael Howard, promised the House of Commons (Hansard, June 14, 1995, p.802) that he would immediately initiate a wide-ranging review of the rules under which the Boundary Commissions operate when redrawing constituency boundaries, but as far as we have been able to discern nothing has been done. Perhaps it is in neither the in-tray nor the out-tray, but left to mould in the low (let the blighters wait) tray.

More important, the Labour Party's election manifesto included a pledge to hold a referendum on electoral reform within the lifetime of this Parliament. The Foreign Secretary has indicated in an interview in the *New Statesman* (June 13) that this occupies a low place on the Government's agenda, as does electoral reform for the European Parliament.

The UK's electoral law is a shambles, as we made clear in *Fixing the Boundaries*, 1996, (edited by I. McLean and D. Butler). Putting it into order should be a high-priority task for the Home Office once it has tested public opinion on the desirability of electoral reform to a more proportional system.

Yours sincerely,
IAIN MCLEAN
(University of Oxford),
R. J. JOHNSTON
(University of Bristol),
Nuffield College, Oxford,
June 13.

Press freedom

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, The Lord Chancellor's excuse (letter, June 14; see also letter, June 13) for the extraordinary press conference to which only "specialists" were admitted won't wash. The notion that proposed alterations to civil justice and legal aid, which are important to every citizen, should be communicated to the laity through some priesthood is unsatisfactory.

The danger inherent in restricting briefings to such favoured groups of reporters is that of "sweethearts": the provider of news is never embarrassed by the disclosure of information he wishes to keep secret, since the ethos of the group discourages individual initiative by reporters.

Further, if there are developments in the "confidential" discussions of "key Cabinet committees, concerned with the work of the Government's programme of constitutional reform", it is the job of reporters to discover them and not to wait with hands cupped for briefings from the Lord Chancellor. Still further, the proper way for the Government to announce officially any such developments is through a statement in the Commons.

I have the honour to remain,
Sir, your obedient servant,
ROY ROEBUCK
(Labour MP for Harrow East,
1966-70),
12 Brookside Street, NI,
June 15.

Road use

From Mr Robert Blood

Sir, Charging road users for the length of time spent on the road might indeed encourage speeding (letter, June 11), but there is a straightforward solution, which I understand is already used on some tolled motorways in the United States.

The ticket which a driver collects on entering the motorway is time-stamped. If the driver gets to his exit too quickly (calculated by dividing the distance between entry and exit by the time taken to drive it) the authorities simply add a speeding fine to the toll levy.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BLOOD,
20 Delorme Street, W6.

March of progress

From Dr Jonathan P. A. Fowleraker

Sir, May I congratulate you for introducing electronic mail to your letters page. This will allow those of us in distant corners of the world, as well as distant corners of the UK, to comment on the news, and issues, of the day.

Through reading the Internet version of the paper we may keep abreast of current affairs in the UK and around the world, yet our experiences of different cultures, political systems and socio-economic environments will, I believe, enhance the quality of debate in your letters page.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN FOWERAKER,
Department of Clinical Neurosciences,
Faculty of Medicine,
Health Sciences Building,
3330 Hospital Drive NW,
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 4N1.
jonf@cs.ualgary.ca
June 16.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Rejection of plan for Stonehenge

From Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

Sir, As the first chairman of English Heritage I laboured with my fellow commissioners for eight-and-a-half years to solve the Stonehenge problems. I share the disappointments and frustrations of the present commissioners at being thwarted in progressing what their present chairman has called a "near perfect" solution on the grounds of cost (report, June 14).

I can see no alternative but to revert to the plans set out and presented to the former Government in 1985, after six months' deliberations by a committee which included all interested parties.

The recommendations embodied the main accepted requirements: isolating Stonehenge in its natural environment, closing the A344, building a reception centre and museum at Larkhill invisible from the monument, and best of all creating a three-quarter-of-a-mile walk to the site across the historic landscape.

These proposals were widely welcomed in the consultations we carried out at the time. Hostility to the plan came only from the military and the villagers of Shrewton. I suspect that the end of the Cold War and common sense have meant that these objections have been somewhat modified.

We always appreciated that some extra government money would be required, but I had always felt confident that English Heritage would be able to arrange a suitable financial package of government and private investment. After all, unlike most English Heritage properties, Stonehenge is very profitable, needing very little annual maintenance and guaranteed to attract visitors and earn money.

How paradoxical to spend £800 million at Greenwich for a millennium building only lasting two years, where a much more modest sum would help preserve Stonehenge for public enjoyment and enlightenment for another thousand.

The Government and English Heritage should try to achieve the possible.

Millennium dome

From the Chairman of the Southwark Environment Trust

Sir, It has been clear for some time that the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition could become a white elephant because nobody has ever made clear what visitors will see when they get there (report, June 16). The Millennium Commission applied the strictest of criteria for all other applications, demanding proposals in the greatest of detail. Apparently not for this one.

Perhaps the £200 million promised by the commission for the exhibition could be redistributed amongst community-based projects in the greater London area. Lottery awards to the Royal Opera House, the Tate, Sadler's Wells, the Globe, etc. pushed up awards in London to an average of just over £100 per head, one of the highest rates in the country.

Londoners are rightly proud of their national institutions but most of these awards benefited tourists and visitors to London as much, if not more, than the local population. Greenwich is the

prime example of this. The geographical criteria employed by civil servants in assessing the awards did not make this distinction and London community projects, as a result, have missed out badly.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BENNETT,
Chairman,
Southwark Environment Trust,
c/o 30 Grove Lane, Camberwell, SE5,
June 16.

From Mr Lucas Mellinger

Sir, As nobody has decided what to put in the Greenwich millennium dome, is it surprising that investors are reluctant to sign blank cheques for an enterprise that smacks of a lucky dip with most extravagant wrapping paper?

I understand at present the only known content is hot air: and that is causing problems.

Yours faithfully,
LUCAS MELLINGER,
60 Richmond Hill Court,
Richmond, Surrey,
June 16.

Yours most sincerely,
MAXWELL HUTCHINSON
(President, RIBA, 1989-91),
Sussex Way Studios,
253 Sussex Way, N19,
June 16.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN MALINS
(Common Councilman),
The Members' Room, Guildhall, EC2,
June 16.

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Yours faithfully,
JULIAN MALINS
(Common Councilman),
The Members' Room, Guildhall, EC2,
June 16.

On the coat tails of new Labour

From Mr John M. Calabrin

Sir, My heart really warms to the fresh wind now sweeping through government circles in Westminster, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, for instance, refusing to don the traditional — and in today's climate needlessly ostentatious — tailcoat for his speech at the Mansion House dinner (report, June 13) and ministers generally preferring to be addressed by their surnames rather than their official titles.

I like to think that this is all part of a more honest and down-to-earth approach, from which our new Government will draw the necessary encouragement in its determination to eventually abolish hereditary seats in the House of Lords and the endless granting of knighthoods, other than in very special cases.

We should follow the example of the French, who, in carefully addressing everyone as "Monsieur" or "Madame", be it the President of the Republic or the poorest beggar on the Champs Elysées, are instinctively and solemnly acknowledging the *liberté* and *égalité* principles for which their forebears fought.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN M. CALABRINI,
10 Tonsley Place, SW18.

From Mr Julian Malins, QC

Sir, Given the reluctance of new Labour to wear evening dress and the evident rapport between the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister (report, June 16), surely now is the time for His Royal Highness to design, with help from Savile Row, a replacement for "white tie" in time for the next millennium?

A new, formal, perhaps more colourful evening dress, to be inaugurated by the Prince of Wales on the last night of 1999, would be a great boost to the tailoring trade, as well as providing endless fun over the next 30 months.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN MALINS
(Common Councilman),
The Members' Room, Guildhall, EC2,
June 16.

Antique books

From Mr Nicholas J. Gardiner

Sir, I support Miss Germaine Greer's views upon the destruction of old books (article, June 10; letters, June 16), but would also like to praise the best of the antiquarian book trade who still preserve them.

I have collected 16th and 17th-century English printed books on a shoestring budget for some 20 years. I could only do this thanks to the consideration of enlightened booksellers who saved those less than perfect copies of rare old books for decades (and even generations) to await their eventual purchase by scholars and true collectors who value them as a part of our history and not just morocco-bound investments.

A blessing on all civilised booksellers, and the Devil take the "breakers".
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS J. GARDINER,
Flat 4, 61 Sreatham Hill, SW2,
June 16.

Thoughtful paws

From Mrs Elizabeth Watkins

Sir, If Mr Oliver's ingenious Cornish super-squirrel (letter, June 12) should star in a drinks advertisement, we have a suitable candidate for *Crème de la Paws*.

Our London super-squirrel simply grabs the wire-mesh bird feeder, which is similarly suspended on a chain, and bangs it against the wall of our house until the nuts tumble out. There are matters of theft and criminal damage.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH WATKINS,
35 Woodland Road,
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11,
June 13.

Cracking the code

From Dr Alan M. Calver

Sir, The label on Mr William Holland's wine bottle (letter, June 12) would certainly have baffled Enigma, because the UK postcode cipher was not written until 1966.

The message is the epitome of brevity and precision. It tells us which machine, at which address, bottled the wine: who is responsible for the quality of the product; and where, for the price of a stamp, to address any complaint or compliment. The postal system remains a triumph of common sense in an increasingly mad world.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN CALVERD,
35 Badgers,
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Recipe for change

From Mr A. E. Norris

Sir, The renewal of my television licence is due. Would it be cheaper for me to buy a cookery book?

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED E. NORRIS,
Sea Winds, 14 Beacon Heights,
Point Clear, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex,
June 11.

When millennium fever strikes, reason goes on holiday

Extraterrestrials do not deserve equal time

Britain is blessed with a superabundance of protection from films or television programmes that could do harm. But when something comes along that really deserves censure, where are our moral guardians? Prattling away about taste, decency and whether Sue Lawley was too rude to Michael Heseltine.

I wouldn't have thought ITV would stoop so low as *Strange But True? Live*, scheduled for June 27. Perhaps the 50th anniversary of the first sighting of an unidentified flying object does deserve a whole themed week on Britain's biggest commercial channel, even if the event is not quite in the league with the half-century of India's independence — a milestone the ITV network is managing to ignore.

Speculations on whether UFOs have landed on Earth do not merit the status of an open question. But that is what they will get on June 27, courtesy of ITV.

Strange But True? Live, made by LWT, will ask, in the important manner of ITV's January debate on the future of the monarchy: "Have we been visited by aliens? The nation decides in the biggest-ever live extraterrestrial vote."

It is the word "decides" that I call to the attention of the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. A debate is supposed to deal with matters of opinion; abortion, hazing the motorcar in cities, foxhunting. Some media pundits saw new vistas of democratic expression opened up by the rowdy monarchy debate. I was not among the enthusiasts, but I have no difficulty in seeing the entertainment possibilities of the instant television poll. Should convicted murderers be beheaded? Should there be a £250 million millennium dome at Greenwich? Let's take a vote. It's such fun.

But ITV's extraterrestrial debate goes beyond fun. It will do a public disservice by treating scientific evidence as just another form of belief. Its panel of "experts" will have, on the one hand, two scientists and an academic psychologist, and three "believers" on the other. Viewers will then be asked to say, according to LWT's handout, "If UFOs really have landed on Earth, Vox populi cannot decide matters of fact. If only it could."

On extraterrestrials, my mind is open — as open as that of Alan Hale, the astronomer of Hale-Bopp fame, who says there may be advanced alien races out there, but if so, where are they? Rather than allowing themselves to be identified only by third parties who see "lights" or "things in the sky", they ought to make themselves visible. They could even appear on ITV's panel. Now that's my idea of equal balance.

It is ironic that ITV's week *Into the Unknown*, which begins on Friday with *Predictions*, pitting psychics, astrologers and clairvoyants against psychiatrists, coincides with yet another 50th anniversary. The Association of British Science Writers, honoured last night at the Royal Society, was founded in 1947 on the assumption that science was becoming news as never before. That assumption was not wrong. Science is now a bestselling topic, as will be celebrated tomorrow night at the Science Museum when the Rhône-Poulenc Prize for the science book of the year will be chosen.

Yet what are all these writing efforts worth in the face of millennium fever, when reason takes a holiday and democratic values are called upon to demand equal time for unreason? You have your beliefs. I have mine, so the vogueish philosophy goes, and they must be equally respected. Anyone who argues that science does not deal in real facts about the real world should be willing to get out and walk at 33,000ft. But anyone who believes that science is just one point of view among many should never get into an aeroplane at all.

ITV neglects serious science. The BBC, with its Science Unit, leaves it standing. The BBC cannot ignore the audience's insatiable appetite for the paranormal, but it panders to it without losing its head. In July, conveniently following ITV's alien orgy, the BBC is offering *A Weekend in Mars*, to celebrate something nearly as interesting as a UFO sighting: the landing on Mars of NASA's Pathfinder probe. Clive Anderson will be on hand to joke about little green men but all the publicity is emphasising that "life" does not mean men or anything that resembles men. Not a psychic will be in sight, nobody more other-worldly than Patrick Moore.



BRENDA MADDOX

ITV is so keen on the paranormal, all the same. It might call in some chairyants and astrologers to predict whether Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, will get his wish to make ITV one big network. Mr Robinson was not consulting the stars when he made his wish, just looking at the third channel's falling, ageing audiences. Perhaps ITV should stage one of those big televised debates. Should ITV be allowed to abandon any pretence of public-service broadcasting and leave all the heavy stuff to the BBC? Here's a follow-up question. Are British students up to Western European and Far Eastern standards in mathematics and science? There are two ways to get the answer. Have a debate on television and let the nation decide. Or look at the evidence.

The Client's Story

All the glory, or the blame, goes to the creatives and the agencies when a new advert appears. But what of the person who bought the ad, the person who said yes, the person with nerves of steel, the person who crossed his fingers and signed the cheque?

● LISTERINE MOUTHWASH

THE CLIENT
Lesley McCaig, 30, group product manager, Warner Lambert.

WHAT OTHER CAMPAIGNS HAVE YOU BOUGHT?
Actifed, Sudafed, Ray-Ban sunglasses.

THE PRODUCT
Listerine antiseptic mouthwash.

THE AGENCY
J. Walter Thompson.

WHAT'S THE PLOT?
It's based around the myth of the Tooth Fairy. But this one visits adults, not kids, and is very disappointed to find he is out of a job because Listerine ensures healthy teeth and gums.

WHAT'S THE STRATEGY?
That tooth brushing will do a good job cleaning teeth but won't get rid of all the bacteria.

WAS THE AD EXPENSIVE?
Yes. All told, probably £500,000.

AT WHOM IS IT AIMED?
18 to 34-year-old ABC1 men and women. It's slightly female orientated — they buy more household toiletries.

ISN'T IT A BIT EMBARRASSING WORKING ON A BAD BREATH PRODUCT?
I work on all sorts of products to treat everything from head lice to haemorrhoids. To me, fresh breath is one of the easier products to talk about.



Keith Allen (Martin Chuzzlewit) finds himself hanging in a harness as the Listerine "Tooth Fairy"

WHAT HAPPENED TO CLIFFORD, THE DRAGON?
I slew him. He was synonymous with bad breath but Listerine is about more than that. As a drinker and smoker he wasn't a Nineties dragon.

HOW WAS THE ADVERT FILMED?
The Tooth Fairy was filmed against a blue screen. We used live maggots to simulate the wriggling bacteria on the teeth.

WHAT SOLD THE SCRIPT TO YOU?
We'd been looking at our campaigns in Europe and America to find a character to replace Clifford. We tested this idea against a script

which showed people being pulled back into the bathroom by animated shower curtains because they forgot to use Listerine. The Tooth Fairy brought a frankly rather boring story alive.

WHAT'S THE BEST AD YOU'VE EVER BOUGHT?
This one.

AND THE WORST?
An Actifed ad about eight years ago. We made an attempt to tackle the taboo of coughing on screen. The ad was shot from the perspective of someone who was coughing. People around him were repulsed. So were the viewers.

DAVID MCGRATH

Magazine that packs a punch

Punch has gone for the 'laddish' market, reports Bridget Harrison

ONCE famed for its place in dentists' waiting rooms and Middle England sitting rooms, *Punch* is at last shedding an image that has seen it in decline since 1947. The magazine has been transformed from an attractive glossy with pastel cartoons and dated articles into a gripping read, filled with photographs, gossip, jokes and spoof columns.

A complete overhaul of *Punch* was undertaken by its Editor, Paul Spike, who left GQ to join the magazine in February.

"I am hoping to reach a generation who are already buying magazines like *Loaded* and *GQ*. It may be sad, but the traditional *Punch*'s time has come and gone."

The proprietor, Mohamed Al Fayed who has already lost an estimated £13 million on the magazine since its relaunch last year, is likely to have swallowed the bitter pill of commercialism and realised also that the traditional *Punch* could never make money. Instead, a move down-market, dropping the price from £1.75 to £1, using cheaper paper and contents emulating laddish magazines such as *Loaded* rather than *The New Yorker*, was the only way to shift *Punch* from the stands.

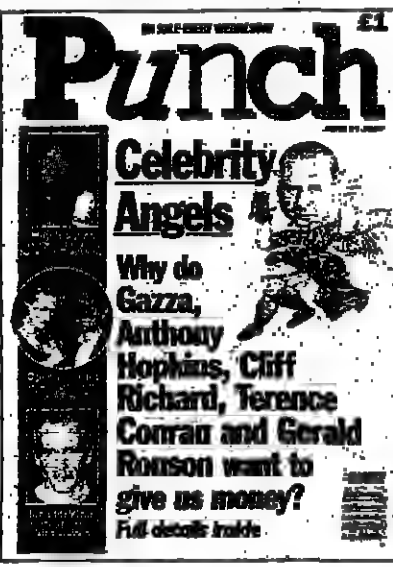
Startlingly, *Punch* is now a very good read — if you like celebrity gossip and rowdy humour. It contains more investigative articles and fewer commentaries. This week's issue, on the stands today, includes a feature investigating allegations of a connection between the Mafia and the Duke of Kent.

The magazine's satire has also hardened and been significantly

modernised. For example, the weekly Letter from the Nick, a spoof column pretending to be penned by errant City trader Nick Leeson from a Singapore prison — clearly intended to appeal to the City boys among readers.

Another huge success has been the *Punch* Milkman, who arrives first thing in the morning on the doorstep of an unwitting celebrity to demand an interview. Victims have included Noel Gallagher — gruff but polite, Jonathan Ross — who invited the Milkman in to watch his personal collection of videos: Barbara Windsor — who was apparently

livid, and George Best. Although there were rumours of mass cancellation of subscriptions after the first new version of the magazine came on sale — Paul Spike admits to having lost about 1,000 old readers — the magazine has put on sales of 20,000. "I don't want to look at this change in *Punch* as a total relaunch. Instead it is a slow-burn campaign, continuing through the summer in which we built on what we have already achieved, bit by bit." With sales increasing by the week, a new era of *Punch* may already have begun.



Today's issue features the Mafia

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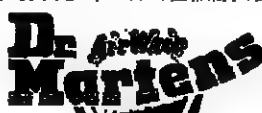
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Clothing Account Manager
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The successful candidates should have a minimum of two years territory management experience preferably in F.M.C.G. or branded consumer products. Candidates must also have a thorough appreciation of how a brand is marketed and sold through appointed stockists, together with the necessary commercial awareness to provide effective solutions.

An attractive remuneration and benefits package will be offered for the above positions. Previous applicants need not apply.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please send your CV stating current salary details, and quoting the relevant Ref No, to: Janey Tash, Personnel Officer, H. Griggs Group Ltd, Cobbs Lane, Wollaton, Nottingham NN29 7SW, by 3rd July 1997.

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Carol Midgley talks to Eileen Wise, press officer for Norma Major during the doomed campaign



Norma Major is "not a lady who likes dealing with the media"

Wise move after a 'Tory defeat'

Most people might claim to feel insecure about their jobs these days, but few can have felt as endangered as a Tory press officer during the general election campaign.

Some experienced the chill wind of unemployment immediately after the landslide defeat, while others could not wait to volunteer to walk the plank.

This, however, was not the case for Eileen Wise, who landed what was arguably one of the nicer jobs at Central Office during the campaign. As well as being head of news, she was also Norma Major's personal press officer and a high-profile member of the Conservative media team. Recently, exactly one month after polling day, she was appointed director of corporate communications for the National Magazine Company (NMC), home of *Cosmopolitan* and *Harpers & Queen*.

The leap from Mrs Major's frozen cheese leftovers to the anatomy of the female orgasm (one of *Cosmo's* favourite topics) may seem a large one but, in fact, Ms Wise's PR experience far predates Smith Square. She has been, among other things, chief press officer for Walt Disney, television researcher for Cilla Black's *Surprise!* and personal press secretary to Robert Maxwell during the launch of *The European* before joining the Tories.

Unknown to journalists, the deal with NMC had been fixed months before the election was even called. Terry Mansfield, managing director, made the offer last Christmas saying he was willing to wait for her until the election was over.

Thus it was with this knowledge that during the campaign Ms Wise fended off questions about schools policy, chicken costumes and where Mrs Major bought her nail varnish. During one scuffle with the press, the Tory chicken stood on Ms Wise's foot, tearing a tendon.

Most of her friends had thought she was deranged to join Central Office last year when the Tory cause appeared to them, even then, a hopeless one. Charles Lewington, former director of communications for the Tories, whom Ms Wise had met years before when they both worked for the *Sunday Express*, approached her saying he did not mind her lack of political experience, he just wanted someone who understood the media. She took the job and the height of the BSE crisis.

"I didn't see it as a hopeless challenge, quite genuinely. I seriously looked upon it as a privilege," she says, ensconced now in her new open plan office in Soho, near to NMC's head office.

"To be so close to such talented people who are running the country is very exciting, although we worked gruelling hours. The hardest thing was that the party was not united, so you never knew who was going to say what."

"It is a blessed relief not to have a bleep any longer. If a big story broke it would sometimes go off 30 times an hour. Once, I tried to take a Sunday off at my parents' farm. A story broke and I was still in my nightdress at 3pm answering calls."

She remembers a more pleasurable side of her job was going to Downing Street to look after Mrs Major's media arrangements. "It was



A month after the polls, Eileen Wise became head of communications for the National Magazine Company

like a breath of fresh air sometimes. I loved being in the frantic Central Office, but it was lovely just to leave it and walk over to Downing Street, which always seemed so calm."

The banality of some of the questions asked by sections of the press during the election campaign often staggered her. One story which caused a barrage of demands from tabloids and broadsheets alike was about a Val Doonican-style grey sweater that John Major wore one weekend at Chequers. "They were obsessed with that sweater and whether Norma had knitted it," she says. "I used to find it annoying, but you still have to try and find out the answers. It turned out he had had it given to him on a visit somewhere."

Mrs Major, she insists, is not at all a house mouse. "She is delightful, with a great sense of humour and highly intelligent. She is not a lady who likes dealing with the media but she recognised that as Prime Minister's wife it was an unavoidable part of the job."

Surely confiding that you freeze your "gritty bits" of leftover cheese is house-mousey in anyone's book? "Freezing bits of cheese is probably what a lot of people do, but they probably wouldn't say it in an interview," Ms Wise says defensively. She remains a loyal admirer of Mr Major, whom she describes as a good man with great integrity, and insists none of the Cabinet was ever rude to her. Brian Mawhinney, despite an irascible public image, was the perfect gent. She believes Mrs Major was bitterly disappointed, rather than relieved, at Labour's victory.

After election day at work there was this overwhelming feeling of being stunned. We had expected defeat, but I don't think anybody in the country expected it to be on that scale. But I do maintain that whatever people say, the result can't be blamed on the media campaign, which was pretty efficient. People had made their minds up well before that."

Ms Wise, divorced from her husband of ten years, Brian Basham, a PR consultant and committed socialist, now faces a daunting workload. Apart from *Harpers* and *Cosmopolitan*, she is also responsible for eight more titles, *Company*, *Country Living*, *Esquire*, *Good Housekeeping*, *House Beautiful*, *She, She's Having a Baby* and *Zest*. In a year, one in four adults will read an NMC magazine — a total of 12.1 million people. Her job is to raise the profile even more, overseeing the company's entry into masthead programming and digital television.

The new media will give magazines the opportunity, for instance, to introduce a branded programme. A *Cosmopolitan* show seems the most likely early runner.

She insists this is the job she wanted and if the Tories had won a fifth term she would have left anyway. "It was always understood it was a short-term contract. I always intended to leave, whatever the result, after the election."

The last time she saw Mr and Mrs Major was in the early, grey hours of May 2, when they came into Central Office to thank the workers. "I didn't manage to have a conversation with Mrs Major that day, but she was her usual composed self. Later they went to watch Surrey at The Oval. It wasn't something they did because they'd lost. It had been planned for weeks, win or lose."

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Monk's new habit



Coleridge: super specs

IAN MONK, former deputy editor of *The Express*, has ended speculation over his next career move by accepting an invitation to join the thriving PR agency MacLaurin Communications. Monk parted company with *The Express* last year, will experience life on the other side of the tracks during a three-month summer contract helping out the managing director Brian MacLaurin, former boss of Sophie Rhys Jones. MacLaurin said: "I have known Ian for years. He will be supporting the team while senior people are away on holiday. It will be interesting for him to work for a proactive PR agency and we of course will be able to tap into his formidable contacts book. If he ends up a Fleet Street editor he will be a very useful contact for us." Monk starts work on Monday.

offices of Condé Nast. The object of merriment is a pair of new spectacles recently purchased by the company's smooth operator and managing director Nicholas Coleridge. The pouting critics at *Vogue* bitch that the unflattering specs make him look like a hybrid of Clark Kent, Maurice Saatchi and Damon Albarn. Coleridge's rather lame explanation is that his old wire-framed glasses always get crushed when wife Georgia hugs him.

Roughing it

HOW times have changed at the thrifty BBC. David Jessel, former *Rough Justice* presenter, recalled the days before the gravy train hit the buffers while he was introducing Channel 4's new series about prison life last week. He remembered several years ago driving past Wormwood Scrubs with a BBC colleague. "He looked over and said, 'There are people in there doing time for less than I fiddle on overnights.'" Today, malcontents say the only thing considered criminal at the Beeb is the £45 ceiling on hotel stopovers.

Observer gloom

FEAR and trembling has transferred from the first to the fourth floor in Farringdon Road where *Guardian* Editor Alan Rusbridger has gone upstairs to help to sort out *The Observer*. Staff at



Rusbridger: observing

the crisis-hit Sunday apparently wait covering at their desks as A.R. moves in alongside the Editor Will Hutton to look for "weak spots". Back at the feverish *Guardian*, meanwhile, a temporary calm has ensued. Specialists awaiting major changes and possible demotion have been granted a stay of execution until autumn. There are apparently not the funds available to facilitate the reshuffle.

Out of vogue

SPLUTTERS and sniggers can be heard in the fragrant

Net loss

A CRUCIAL week for *The Express*, the price of which has been temporarily slashed to 20p in an effort to halt the falling sales. Staff, still stunned by yet further job cuts last week, have been told the papers must be extra special to keep any readers snared by the price cut. So they were surprised to find that on Monday, the first day of the sales drive, most senior executives were conspicuous by their absence. They had received a three-line whip telling them to attend a tennis tournament hosted by the Editor Richard Addis. As the management sipped their Pimm's and exchanged Slazenger talk at the swanky junket in Holland Park, the job of getting the paper out was left to the *Express* underlings back at the office.

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Simon Anholt on the smirks that have international appeal

How to spot the winning ad at Cannes

THE advertising community gathers once again in Cannes next week for the International Advertising Festival, where they will vote for the best television commercials of the year and drink £20 Martinis.

Cannes is important because it is international. Most large companies demand advertising campaigns that are effective, witty, memorable and legal in the domestic market, and identical so around the globe. This is not an easy requirement, and is one of the industry's chief preoccupations.

Part of the trouble is that people like advertising which makes them laugh, and humour is a notoriously bad traveller. Ask the British to name their favourite adverts, and they are likely to remember Rowan Atkinson's secret agent and the clever wit of the drinking and smoking ads like Jack Dee's penguins. But it's all local stuff, culturally speaking: most of these ads would barely survive past the Watford Gap, let alone the Channel.

What people do not remember is the bland, smirky glitz of most global campaigns — Gillette, American Express, Delta, L'Oréal, Coke, Wrigleys — and that is why these companies are trying to lighten their tone.

The professional view confirms the importance of humour: the winning ads are almost always funny. The trouble is, the ads that do not win are trying to be funny, too, and doubtless had people rolling around in front of their TV sets in Turkey or Korea or Germany. So it is not simply that humour does not travel: clearly, some kinds do and some kinds don't.

So what type of humour is universal enough to win over the multi-cultural Cannes jury? It is hard to find method in their approach: in past years, judges have awarded bizarre Japanese pot noodle ads featuring grunting cavemen being chased by improbable dinosaurs, and Australian press ads for jeans showing eviscerated sharks. And yet, for example,

completely ignored the Italian campaign most Italians love, where a famous comedian poses as a grocer, cracking jokes with his female customers as he weighs the ham.

It is easier to explain why this kind of humour does not travel than it is to explain why the other kinds do: verbal humour is local humour, almost by definition. The Italian ad died in the translation, and unless you know the comedian and find his Roman dialect funny, there is not much left to laugh at. Italians probably feel the same way about Jack Dee.

Yet the grunting Japanese caveman has somehow blundered into some common ground — the simplest and most visual humour travels best. Everyone loves the Norwegian airline ad where a man bursts naked into his drawing room with a rose between his teeth, only to find that his wife has flown her parents over on a cheap weekend return. There is rich potential in the spectacle of people hurting or humiliating themselves.

Those stylish Levi's ads are always popular, too: the young woman who strips in front of an apparently blind man, who is only looking after his father's white stick and sunglasses. No doubt this year's ads, including the one where a handsome sailor is stripped by mermaids, will do well again.

But for all their glamour, the Levi's ads are pure Benny Hill (another perennial international success). Those wry tales of double entendre, whether they are enhanced by rock music and Hollywood gloss or jerked out by a little fat bloke with round glasses and a bevy of Page 3 girls, are as old as the hills.

Filth, too, often wins, such as the Argentine ad for spicy tuna sauce that brought the house down a couple of years ago: a shot of a pair of underpants on a washing line, with a ragged hole burnt eloquently through the rear.

It's a point worth remembering. If you want to make friends and influence people, you need to start by raising a smile — and for international audiences there are only two safe themes: laughing at other people's misfortune and cracking dirty jokes.

© The author is managing director of World Writers, which advises companies on how to make culturally appropriate global advertising

Benny Hill: a perennial international success

Exclusive Sunday Times reader offer

FREE SLAZENGER TENNIS BALLS

COLLECT A TUBE OF THREE HI-VIS BALLS WORTH £5.99

The Sunday Times, with Slazenger, is giving away 15,000 three-ball tubes of exclusive Wimbledon HI-Vis tennis balls. The tubes are worth £5.99 each.

Slazenger has been Wimbledon's sole supplier of tennis balls since 1902 and the HI-Vis ball has been hand tested to the LTA's exacting standards for pressure, appearance and bounce. It contains high levels of fluorescent dye to give players such as Tim Henman, above, that split second longer to react and allows audiences a clearer view of the action.

If you collected the token which appeared with a voucher in the Style section of *The Sunday Times* yesterday, simply collect the second token from Style next Sunday and three differently numbered tokens from *The Times*, one of which must be from the Wimbledon supplement appearing on Monday June 23. Tokens will appear in *The Times* each day this week. Attach all five tokens to the voucher, and present it at a Sports Division store before July 5. You will receive a free tube of three HI-Vis balls, subject to stock availability at the time of your visit. To find your local Sports Division store call 0800 146 542.

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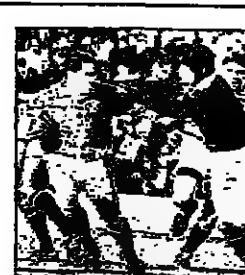
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

Balloting over union dues to be scrapped

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government is to scrap legal requirements to ballot trade union members on continuing to pay union dues through check-off — employers taking union subscriptions directly from wage packets.

The move, which will be warmly welcomed by Britain's trade unions, marks a movement back towards the "beer and sandwiches" relationship between union barons and the Labour leadership that existed in the 1960s and 1970s. This took a jolt after Tony Blair took power, when the Confederation of British Industry was invited for talks at 10 Downing Street ahead of the Trades Union Congress.

Ministers are expected shortly to announce that the rebalancing on check-off which is due this summer under 1993 legislation passed by the previous Conservative Government is to be scrapped.

Many businesses and trade unions had already begun to prepare themselves for a new round of balloting on union subscriptions. Scrapping the requirement will save companies and unions considerable amounts of money, since employers have in the past funded facilities for unions to mount dues retention campaigns in order to preserve stable employee relations.

Trade union leaders, denied the prospect of the Government making union recogni-

tion a statutory requirement in Labour's first legislative programme, have been lobbying ministers hard on the question of check-off, insisting that the requirement be scrapped before large amounts of money were spent on a new campaign.

Scrapping compulsory check-off rebalancing is a significant victory for the trade unions. The original aim of the requirement was to try to reduce trade union membership and power, but Whitehall officials have now advised ministers that the change does not need primary legislation, but can be achieved by means of passing regulations.

Ian McCartney, Trade and Industry Minister, yesterday clearly signalled the change. Speaking in London to an Electricity Association conference, he called the legislation on check-off "unnecessary, burdensome and meddling". He said: "Individual employees do not want or need it. Employers face significant costs to comply with it."

He told electricity industry leaders: "I know that employers and unions are facing the worrying prospect of a further round of reauthorisations this summer. I recognise the urgency of the issue for you and the unions. I hope to make an announcement very soon about our plans for repeal."

His statement came as Acas,

the conciliation service, made it clear that it did not want to be involved in the Government's plans for statutory union recognition. In the late 1970s, Acas was charged with the responsibility of bringing in union recognition, but told the then Government it did not want the task.

John Hougham, Acas chairman, said yesterday as he presented the service's annual report that Acas's tripartite structure with employers and unions still made it inappropriate as the body to carry out any future legislation on union recognition.

As Acas announced that for the first time it had handled more than 100,000 employment rights cases in a single year, it emerged that the service is preparing plans for a new, more informal system to handle work complaints such as dismissals in addition to the long-established industrial tribunals.

Tribunals have been criticised for being too slow and legalistic, and under plans brought forward by the last Government but which Labour is standing by, Acas is preparing a new scheme of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) that would not be bound by legal precedent and case law but which would, like conciliation in collective union disputes, deal with each individual row on a case-by-case basis.



Sam Chisholm, left, and David Chance, whose departures from BSkyB have surprised the television industry

Chisholm and Chance leave BSkyB

By Eric Reguly

THE television industry was rocked yesterday by the surprise resignations of Sam Chisholm and David Chance, the top two executives of BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that has become one of Britain's 20 biggest companies.

Mr Chisholm, 57, chief executive and managing director, said he was leaving for health reasons. He suffers from asthma and was not sure he has the energy to take BSkyB through

its next phase of growth. BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is to launch 200 digital channels next year.

He said: "Running BSkyB has been a most wonderful experience and very stimulating, but it has also been very demanding. My doctors have advised me that I should not take on the next stage of BSkyB's development."

Rupert Murdoch, a BSkyB director and chairman of The News Corporation, said: "Sam

Chisholm is unquestionably one of the best executives I have ever worked with. I'm really sorry he has to step down."

Shares in BSkyB fell 21½p, to 566½p, on fears that its growth might not be sustained without Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance.

Mr Chance, 40, deputy managing director, was offered the chief executive's title about two weeks ago, but said that he did not want to be considered for it.

Mr Chance joined Sky in 1989, a year before its merger

with British Satellite Broadcasting. He has a stomach ulcer and did not feel that he could stay a full-time employee for several more years.

Mr Chance will become a consultant to BSkyB when he leaves office in January. Mr Chisholm will stay a director.

Mr Chisholm is to be succeeded by Mark Booth, 40, chief operating officer of JSkyB, News Corp's satellite TV venture in Japan.

Mr Chance joined Sky in 1989, a year before its merger

Bulldog grip, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4682.2	(-82.9)
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE All share	2258.32	(-24.35)
Nikkei	20593.66	(-97.41)
Dow Jones	7793.35	(+31.29)
S&P Composite	895.46	(+1.56)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%	(5%)
Long Bond	5.97%	(5.7%)
Yield	6.71%	(6.65%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6¼%	(6¼%)
3-month bill	114½	(114½)

STERLING

New York	1.6386	(1.6373)
London	1.6386	(1.6383)
DM	2.6396	(2.6333)
FRF	9.5800	(9.5535)
SPF	2.3714	(2.3586)
Yen	165.77	(165.68)
S index	102.5	(102.0)

US DOLLAR

London	1.7340	(1.7310)
DM	6.5500	(6.5335)
SPF	1.4467	(1.4425)
Yen	113.30	(113.27)
S index	102.5	(102.0)

US DOLLAR

London	1.7340	(1.7310)
DM	6.5500	(6.5335)
SPF	1.4467	(1.4425)
Yen	113.30	(113.27)
S index	102.5	(102.0)

Tokyo close Yen 113.38

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$18.25	(\$18.05)
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WORLD

London close	\$342.15	(\$342.05)
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* denotes midday trading price

Electricity watchdog accused over levy

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE electricity watchdog has been accused of failing to ensure that industrial customers get lower prices.

The lower prices have been made possible by the cut in the levy that had largely supported the nuclear industry.

A survey of electricity prices by National Utility Services revealed that not all companies have passed on the benefits of the levy which has fallen from 10 per cent of a bill to 2.2 per cent. As the windfall tax looms, the move will be seen as an attempt by some businesses to retain extra profits at the expense of customers locked into fixed price contracts.

Andrew Johns, National Utility Services director, said: "Offer is failing to protect consumers' interests by not becoming involved with this issue."

Yorkshire Electricity and Eastern — two companies that have not passed on the reduction to fixed price consumers — said such contracts gave each side of the deal upside and downside and that customers recognise the benefits. A spokeswoman for Offer said the regulator was unable to intervene in contracts between two parties.

In the 15 country survey of prices the UK was the ninth most expensive after prices fell by an average of 7.4 per cent this year.

Commentary, page 27

GrandMet stake for LVMH

LVMH, the French drinks group, run by Bernard Arnault, a non-executive director of Guinness, yesterday posed another challenge to the £23 billion merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan when it spent £27 million to pick up a quarter per cent stake in GrandMet (Alasdair Murray writes).

LVMH insisted that it had no intention of making a bid for the British spirits company. However, it is expected to use its new stake to present a case for a merger of the spirits businesses of all three companies to other shareholders.

The French drinks and luxury goods company already owns a 14.2 per cent stake in Guinness and Bernard Arnault, chairman, has made clear his opposition to the planned merger.

LVMH is also seeking to activate a change in a control clause that would allow the company to assume ownership of a number of important joint venture agreements with Guinness at a nominal cost.

Share prices sent tumbling by corporate tax speculation

By Alasdair Murray

THE stock market suffered its worst fall under this Government as speculation increased that Gordon Brown intends to hit the corporate sector with tax rises in the Budget on July 2.

The FTSE 100 index fell 62.9 points to close at 4,682.2, with the market dogged by worries that Labour will move to phase out dividend tax credits. The market also suffered after stronger than expected industrial production figures sent the Dow Jones industrial average down 40.26 points to 7,731.83 by lunchtime on Wall Street.

However, the pound rushed to hit a post-ERM midday high against the mark of DM2.8429, benefiting from continuing market weakness after the con-

clusion of the Amsterdam summit yesterday. Sterling closed up half a penny at DM2.8388, with traders predicting it could rise further as Budget speculation pointed towards rate rises.

Data showing the public sector borrowing requirement jumping to £3.95 billion in May, compared with City expectations of a £3 billion deficit, failed to move the markets. Economists blamed the worse than expected deficit on a decline in tax receipts, which fell 3.6 per cent compared with May last year. VAT receipts fell 11 per cent because of the new system of large companies paying VAT on a quarterly basis. But core

government spending fell 1.3 per cent on an annual basis and economists said the PSBR remains on a downward trend. Revenues are expected to accelerate throughout the year and the City believes the PSBR will come in below the government forecast of £18 billion.

The markets are now awaiting the National Audit Office report on government finances, due tomorrow. Most economists believe Mr Brown will use the report to justify tax rises to deal with projections of a "structural" overshoot in borrowing despite the improvement in underlying PSBR.

Commentary, page 27
Anthony Harris, page 29

Mirror Group in bid talks with Midland press group

By Eric Reguly



Oakley: awaiting decision

MIRROR GROUP is considering making a bid for Midland Independent Newspapers, the owner of *The Birmingham Post*, that may value MIN at more than £250 million.

MIN yesterday confirmed bid talks after its shares rose sharply, closing at 179p, up 30p. The market expects a bid at 200p, valuing MIN at more than £250 million.

A bidding war looks unlikely. Jim Brown, chairman of Newsquest, the American company that bought Westminster Press from Pearson last year, said: "It's too expensive for us."

Almost every regional newspaper group has evaluated MIN, whose shares have rarely exceeded their 1994 flotation

price of 140p. The Telegraph Group, owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, has also viewed it.

MIN, whose chief executive is Chris Oakley, said that its talks with Mirror Group "may or may not lead to an offer". A decision will probably be made within two weeks.

Although Mirror Group, owner of *The Mirror*, linked with Independent Newspapers of Ireland, last year to bid for Westminster Press, its renewed interest in newspapers is a surprise. It has since been pursuing television deals and launched Birmingham Live, a local cable TV channel, with MIN.

Tempus, page 28

Bakyrchik Gold digs for cash as shares are halted

By Paul Durman

BAKYRCHIK GOLD, a company that seems to have spent more time looking for money from investors than it has producing gold, has hit the latest in a long line of cash crises. Investors were trapped in Bakyrchik's shares yesterday when the company suspended stock mar-

ket dealings while it went in search of "short-term financing". Bill Smith, the company's adviser at RBC Dominion Securities, said this move was made necessary by the volatility of the share price on Monday.

Bakyrchik came to the stock market four years ago with plans to develop a ten million ounce mine in Kazakhstan, a little developed part of

the former Soviet Union. The two founder shareholders bailed out at a substantial profit within a year. Since then, the shares have roller-coasted between 589½p and the all-time low of 83½p reached on Monday.

A likely explanation for the latest difficulties is that Bakyrchik is struggling to find the second of four \$15 million payments it must make to the

Kazakh Government. This follows a deal last December that allows Bakyrchik to increase its interest in the mine from 40 to 85 per cent. Yesterday it said: "If agreement is reached on the short-term financing, this is likely to result in... a proposal for the restructuring of the company's ownership of the Bakyrchik mine." Mr Smith was unable to

clarify this or to explain what would happen if Bakyrchik could not pay Kazakhstan.

Robert Friedland, the Canadian who has twice rescued Bakyrchik in the last two years, recently resigned from the company's board. His Indochina Goldfields owns 27.9 per cent of Bakyrchik and his support may prove critical.

MORSE

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Computer Systems for the Enterprise.

Thames may challenge windfall tax



Clarke defended payout

THAMES WATER yesterday raised the prospect of challenging "an excessive" windfall tax while provoking fresh concern over its profits and dividend payouts. The utility also said that customers faced water restrictions within weeks because of poor rainfall.

Although the company said that it was prepared to accept a windfall levy, David Lufftrum, finance director, said that if the tax is far in excess of the £3 billion earmarked by the Gov-

ernment for its youth employment programme and if it is not spread widely, Thames could consider a challenge.

Mr Luffrum said: "We've heard estimates between £3 billion and £5 billion. If it were more than £5 billion, it could be excessive."

In a letter to the Treasury, Thames said that it "sincerely hopes that the nature, scale and method of distribution of the national levy is such that we are not obliged to challenge the imposition on Thames in the courts."

Thames, which raised its

pre-tax profits before exceptional gains by 19 per cent, ran into controversy over its dividend, which rose by 22 per cent. The announcement of it came as Ian Byatt, the water regulator, said in his annual report that dividend payments should not be too high and should not deter investment. He said that he was "concerned that companies should fulfill their investment programmes and that unjustifiably high dividend increases do not undermine that".

Sir Bob Clarke, chairman of Thames, defended its divi-

dend, saying that only a quarter of the 22 per cent increase had been fuelled by the core utility business, with another quarter coming from the performance of non-core operations and the remaining half from effects of last year's share buyback.

Thames also gave investors hope that it would deliver fresh shareholder returns after the windfall tax by pledging to seek a fresh mandate for a buyback. However, the company, which has the worst leakage rate in the UK, would not detail any plans for

The last figures by Ofwat put Thames with a 38 per cent leakage rate. This is now down to 30 per cent. Thames, which was last year hit by a £95 million charge to cover overseas losses, lifted pre-tax profits before exceptionals to £384 million for the year to March 31. The total dividend was set at 34.4p, with the final 23.2p due on September 1.

Tempus, page 28

MACKIE, the troubled Belfast engineering company, is to raise over £5 million in a rights issue after a restatement of its accounts which shows a pre-tax loss of £7.2 million for 1996 instead of the £400,000 loss it originally reported. Yesterday **Sul Sahota**, the cackie chief executive who ordered a re-examination of the company's books after he took up his post in March, said the loss was a result of exceptional charges totalling almost £6 million after a reassessment of the value of the stock of textile machines, debtors, creditors and the writedown of an investment in a Belgian company. The restatement included a downward revision for 1996 turnover from £17.7 million to £12.6 million.

Dealing in Mackie's shares were suspended on April 21 just before the company issued a warning that it might have to restate its results. Trading is expected to resume on July 3 after an extraordinary general meeting has an opportunity to vote on the proposed new rights issue under which existing shareholders will be offered new shares at 20p. Mackie's shares were suspended at 112p. The company also announced yesterday that Pat Dougan, former chief executive and more recently company chairman, has resigned from the board.

THE West Bromwich Building Society, soon to be the twelfth largest in Britain, saw its profits rise by £4.8 million, to £21.1 million, in the year to March 31. The society, often the subject of merger speculation, restated its commitment to "the principles and practice of mutualism" and promised an enhanced package of mutualism benefits for savers and borrowers. The West Bromwich's Albion Premier Saver Account: for fans of the West Bromwich Albion football club, now has 10,000 account holders, who have invested £17 million.

THE Association of British Insurers (ABI) yesterday said that *some* direct insurers could go out of business. Industry profits fell to £3 billion last year from £4.3 billion in 1995. Low premium rates were at the root of the problem, but the ABI said the continuing competitive climate made large rate rises unlikely. Tony Baker, deputy director general, said that composite insurers could offset underwriting losses with other income but direct insurers are vulnerable. "They can't all survive," he said.

CHRIS MARTIN, chief executive of Azlan, said the computer networking group hopes to resolve its accounting problems within eight weeks. Azlan has suspended its shares and Adrian Lamb, formerly finance director, has left its board, but is helping auditors to reconcile several accounts. Mr Martin said the problems, which came to light at audit, involved maintenance and "house-keeping" of Azlan's books. No money was missing, and Mr Martin does not expect Azlan to go into loss. He said it had not been decided whether Mr Lamb should leave Azlan.

LOGICA, the computer services group, will announce a £14 million outsourcing deal today, to run an electronic trading system for six UK insurers. The Polaris system, started in 1993, allows retail insurance brokers to compare prices and products quickly across the market for customers. The insurers behind the project are Royal & SunAlliance, Commercial Union, Eagle Star, Norwich Union, Guardian and General Accident. At least £14 million will be paid out over seven years.

THE salary of Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, fell almost £12,000 in the year to March 31, the accounts reveal. She earned £198,279, against £209,871 in 1996. A PIA spokesman said the fall was because of the non-recurrence of a £20,000 bonus paid the previous year, relating to the setting-up of the PIA in 1994. But for this, her salary would have shown a 4.4 per cent increase. Ms Bowe has indicated she is in the running to head the new City regulatory body being created by the Government.

THE future of Britain's first co-operative colliery is in danger because no prospective bidders have been found to save it. Brian Wilson, Scottish Office Minister, said the Government had scoured the world looking for possible saviours for Monktonhall Colliery, near Edinburgh, but had not found any. He said something would have to happen "very, very soon" to save the colliery. Receivers were appointed earlier this year. Half of the 300 miners used their redundancy payments to buy a stake in the mine when it faced closure 18 months ago.

A SURVEY of keyboard users has concluded that businesses in the United Kingdom could be losing £20 billion a year because staff cannot type properly. The survey of 520 people was carried out by Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, for Solo, a voice-typing software company. The survey's findings showed that 75 per cent of keyboard users type at less than 65 words per minute and that this created an average annual cost to business of £3,840 for an employee spending four hours a day keyboarding.

BUSINESS POST, the parcel and express mail carrier, declared a special dividend of 9p after increasing pre-tax profits 24 per cent to £16.1 million last year. Turnover rose from £65.5 million to £80.6 million. Neil Benson, chairman, said that this year's margins would be "substantially ahead" of the industry norm. The company is introducing a new next-day delivery service in London. A second interim dividend of 6.9p (5.7p) per share is due on July 1, making a total of 10.5p (8.7p) for the year.

BY JASON NISSE

THE administrators appointed to the shoe retailing side of Stephen Hinchliffe's Facia empire a year ago have finally put the business's brand names up for sale.

Alan Barrett, the Price Waterhouse partner who is joint administrator of Mr Hinchliffe's companies, Facia Footwear and Wisebird, has written to interested parties offering for sale the brand names of Curtess, Freeman Hardy Willis, Mansfield, One-Step, Trueform and Trueform Kool Kids. These were sold to Mr Hinchliffe by Sears, the retailing group, in two controversial deals in September 1995 and February 1996.

Facia collapsed in June last year and is now the subject of a *Serious Fraud Office* investigation. The administrators have sued Mr Hinchcliffe over the collapse and obtained a *Moreva* injunction freezing his UK assets. Mr Hinchcliffe, though, still has a shoe retailing business in Germany.

Price Waterhouse would not say why he has taken so long to put the brands up for sale but Sears, which effectively controls the administration as it is the largest creditor, denied that the sale had any connection with David James, the company doctor being put in charge of British Shoe Corpo-



Hinchliffe: assets injunction

By JON ASHWORTH

STANDARD FIREWORKS, the oldest and biggest maker of fireworks in Britain, has been put up for sale by its management.

The Huddersfield company, which was founded more than a century ago, was long associated with the Greenhalgh family, which sold out to Scottish Heritable Trust in 1986.

Standard was taken private in 1992 by way of a management buyout backed by Prudential Venture Managers, 3i and the Bank of Scotland.

The sale is being handled by Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance in Leeds and Hull. Neil Jenkinson, a PW partner, said that Standard was profitable. The company has annual sales of more than £13 million and makes more than half the fireworks sold in the UK. It also imports fireworks from China.

Paul Jackson, Standard's non-executive chairman, said there would be huge demand for fireworks in the run-up to the millennium celebrations. Business is highly seasonal, with most sales in the six weeks to November 5.

Another old name, Astra Fireworks, went into liquidation in May.

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, yesterday expelled two directors of a Manchester firm of stockbrokers from senior City registers for deceiving it over dealings for a client in Anglia Television Group shares.

The SFA, which also severely reprimanded John Sidall & Son, the stockbroker, said that Gregory John Banks, who was fined £3,000 with £9,190 costs, could continue work as a registered representative provided he did not solicit business nor deal with advisory and discretionary clients. Stephen Alexander was expelled from the SFA's Register of Directors and ordered to pay £3,000 costs.

The SFA said that in 1994 Mr Banks dealt in Anglia TV shares for Market Hill, a Jersey company, of whom he made a £4,000 profit.

As part of a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into insider dealings in Anglia shares Mr Banks said the beneficiary of the deal was a Jersey individual. The SFA said yesterday: "This was untrue. In fact, the beneficial owner of Market Hill was Mr Banks himself."

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM



Regan: led £1.2 billion bid

TODAY'S hearing of the case brought by the Co-operative Wholesale Society against the men behind an aborted bid to take it over has been postponed to allow lawyers for both sides to meet for talks.

The CWS launched the private prosecution of Allan Green, a former executive, Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur who led the £1.2 billion bid, and his business partner, David Lyons, soon after the bid fell apart in late April. It accused Mr Green of theft of commercially sensitive documents, and Mr Regan

and Mr Lyons of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the theft and handling stolen property.

Ian Burton, solicitor to Mr Regan, said that the postponement to July 3 had been agreed by all sides because no one was ready for the hearing. Other sources said that all the lawyers concerned will meet tomorrow to discuss issues including the admissibility of key items of evidence. The sources denied that the defence lawyers will today try to persuade the prosecution to drop the case.

TOURIST RATES	
	Bank Buys Sells
Australia \$	2.18 2.13
Austria Sch	2.28 2.32
Belgium F	20.67 19.30
Canada Cdn	0.88 0.86
Denmark Kr	11.81 10.81
France Fr	6.56 6.28
Germany DM	9.27 9.27
Italy Lira	2.38 2.25
Japan Yen	127 127
Israel Sh	1.13 1.05
Italy Lira	2.94 2.87
Japan Yen	160 150
Netherlands Gld	2940 2708
New Zealand S	2.32 2.30
Portugal Esc	204 216
Portugal Esc	238.00 23.60
S Africa Rand	8.47 7.15
Switzerland Sfr	22.00 22.22
Sweden Kr	13.05 12.42
Switzerland Sfr	22.00 22.22
Turkey Lira	246832 230171
UK £	1.73 1.601

Rates for small-denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travelers' cheques. Rates apply to transfers of funds.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society ("the Society") will be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow on 27 June 1997 at 11.00 a.m. when the following resolution will be proposed as a special resolution:

THAT:

- (a) the proposals described in the circular to members and policyholders of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society ("the Society") dated 28 May 1997 ("the Circular") including, without limitation, the scheme ("the Scheme") providing for the transfer of the long term business (as defined in the Insurance Companies Act 1982) ("the Act") of the Society to The Prudential Assurance Company Limited pursuant to Section 49 of, and Part I of Schedule 2C to, the Act as set out in the document produced to the meeting and signed for the purpose of identification by the Chairman thereof and summarised in the Circular be and are hereby approved and the Directors of the Society be and are hereby authorised and instructed to carry the same into effect with power to agree to or make such additions or modifications thereto, and to do all such acts and things on behalf of the Society, as they may consider necessary or desirable for the purpose of securing as order sanctioning the Scheme and of carrying the same and the proposals described in the Circular into effect;
- (b) subject to, and conditionally upon, the Scheme being sanctioned by an order of the Court, the regulations of the Society as set forth in Schedule 1 to the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society's Act 1976 (as amended) be and are hereby amended as follows:
- (i) by the renumbering of existing regulation 2(6) as regulation 2(7) and the addition of the following as regulation 2(6):
"to transfer the whole or substantially the whole of the business and undertaking of the Society to The Prudential Assurance Company Limited pursuant to a scheme under Section 49 of, and Part I of Schedule 2C to, the Insurance Companies Act 1982 ("the Scheme") in the form annexed to the petition to the Court of Session dated 28 May 1997, or as amended from time to time";
- (ii) by the renumbering of existing regulation 3(28) as regulation 3(29) and the addition of the following as regulation 3(28):
"to transfer the whole or substantially the whole of the business and undertaking of the Society to The Prudential Assurance Company Limited pursuant to the Scheme referred to in regulation 2(6) on such terms as the Society shall think fit and to enter into such arrangements and do all such things ancillary thereto or in connection therewith as the Society shall think fit (including doing all such things as the directors consider necessary or desirable to give effect to the proposals described in the circular to members and policyholders of the Society relating to the said Scheme)";
- (iii) by the deletion of the word "The" at the start of regulation 4 and the substitution thereof of the words "Without prejudice to regulations 5B and 9B, the";
- (iv) by the deletion of the word "All" at the start of regulation 5 and the substitution thereof of the words "Subject to regulations 5A, 5B, 5C, 6A, 6B, 9A and 9B, all";
- (v) by the addition of the following as new regulations 5A, 5B and 5C:
"5A Notwithstanding any other provision of these regulations, no person shall be or become a member of the Society by virtue of any policy of assurance which is not entitled to participate in profits.
5B Where, in accordance with these regulations, a free standing additional voluntary contribution pension policy (within the meaning of the Retirement Benefits Scheme (Restrictions on Discretion to Approve) (Additional Voluntary Contributions) Regulations 1993) confers membership of the Society, the member in respect of same shall be the individual on whose behalf the policy was effected, notwithstanding that such policy is effected in name of a trustee or trustees.
5C Subject to the provisions of regulation 5A, if on or after 1 June 1997 a member in respect of a pension policy (i) transfers the entire pension benefits attributable to any person thereunder to another pension policy or (ii) converts such policy into a different category of pension policy, and in either such case the schedule to such other pension policy or different category of pension policy ("the replacement policy") states that the policy contains a "Ported Transfer Payment" (or words of like effect) the person in right of the replacement policy shall be or become the member in respect of the replacement policy";
- (vi) by the deletion of the word "A" at the start of regulation 6 and the substitution thereof of the words "Subject to regulations 5B, 5C, 6A, 6B and 9B, a";
- (vii) by the addition of the following as new regulations 6A and 6B:
"6A Subject to regulation 5C no person shall be or become a member of the Society on or at any time after 1 June 1997 in respect of any policy of assurance unless the proposal for same was for a policy which would participate in profits of the Society and such proposal has been accepted by the directors before 1 June 1997 and has not subsequently been altered other than by agreement with the directors.
6B No person shall be or become a member of the Society in respect of any policy of assurance if that policy participates in profits only by reason of the exercise of switching or conversion rights if the date of implementation by the Society of such switching or conversion is on or after 1 June 1997";
- (viii) by the deletion of the word "Assignment" at the start of regulation 9 and the substitution thereof of the words "Subject to regulations 5C, 9A, 9B and 104, assignment";
- (ix) by the addition of the following as new regulations 9A and 9B:
"9A If in consequence of assignment or other transference of any kind, the assignee has at any time prior to 1 June 1997 acquired the absolute right to such policy, and has been entered in the Society's computerised records as having acquired the absolute right to such policy, such assignee shall be a member in place of the person already a member of the Society in respect of the assurance with effect from the time at which the computerised records of the Society are altered accordingly.
9B This regulation 9B applies (i) to a policy which confers membership of the Society and was effected in name of a trustee or trustees, and (ii) to a person who is in right of such policy by reason only of a change of trusteeship. So long as that person remains in right of that policy he will be the member in respect of it, and the Society shall be entitled to require such information as it reasonably thinks necessary to satisfy itself as to the identity and capacity of any person claiming or purporting to act as trustee in respect of such policy";
- (x) by the addition of the following as new regulation 99A:
"99A Regulations 85 to 89 apply without prejudice to the implementation of the Scheme referred to in regulation 2(6)";
- (xi) by the insertion in regulation 95 of words "or policyholder" after "member" where it appears in both places in that regulation; and
- (xii) by the addition of the following as new regulation 104:
"104 In any case of doubt the decision of the directors as to whether or not any person is a member of the Society shall be conclusive. In arriving at such decision the directors shall be entitled to rely upon the Society's records and for this purpose to set the most practicable date by reference to the records at which any question as to membership shall be determined. The directors shall also be entitled but not required to assume (in the absence of conclusive evidence to the contrary) (i) that any assignee of a policy shown in the Society's computer records is an assignee who has acquired the absolute right to such policy, and (ii) that (subject thereto) any person shown in the Society's computer records as a "contributor" in respect of any policy is the proposer of that policy"; and
- (c) subject to, and conditionally upon, the Scheme being sanctioned by an order of the Court and taking effect, the regulations produced to the meeting and signed by the Chairman thereof for purposes of identification be and are hereby adopted as the regulations of the Society in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the then existing regulations of the Society as set forth in Schedule 1 to the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society's Act 1976 (as amended).

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
James C. Mitchell
Secretary

Principal Office
PO Box 25, Craigforth
Stirling FK9 4JE

NOTES:

1. Any member entitled to vote at meetings of the Society (a "Voting Member") is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a member of the Society) as his proxy to attend the Special General Meeting and vote instead of him. A proxy who is not himself a Voting Member is not entitled to speak at the Special General Meeting except to demand or join in demanding a poll.
2. Forms of proxy and the power of attorneys or other authority, if any, under which they are signed, or a notarially certified copy of such power or authority, should be deposited at the principal office of the Society, Cullinstown, Sirlene FK0 4YL not later than 11.00 am on 28 June 1997. The lodging of a form of proxy will not prevent a Voting Member from voting in person at the Special General Meeting.
3. It is important that Voting Members intending to vote personally bring with them to the Special General Meeting the letter accompanying their form of proxy or, failing that, details of their policy number(s) and some means of identification. Holders of proxies should bring with them to the Special General Meeting details of the policy number(s) in respect of which they have been appointed proxy and some means of identification. On arrival at the Special General Meeting, please register with the officials who will be at the entrance.
4. Copies of the Circular, the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society's Act 1976 and the regulations of the Society as proposed to be altered/replaced are available on application to the Society.

Scottish Amicable

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Will Beckett let Brussels win?



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Margaret Beckett cannot delay much longer. When she took over as President of the Board of Trade, a stack of reports from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was piled on her desk, in need of prompt attention.

But the weeks have passed and still we await the presidential pronouncements on get-togethers for which the barons were called more than nine months ago.

Sir Ian Prosser and his team at Bass have not dared be parted from their mobile telephones for the past ten days, believing that any moment would bring tidings of Mrs Beckett's decision on their takeover of Carlsberg Tetley. Ferry operators, Stena and P&O, have also been in daily anticipation of winning the go ahead for the merger of their cross-Channel services.

Any hope that the benefits of such a merger might be seen during this summer have had to be abandoned: peak season is not the time for implementing big strategic changes in any business. All the same, the companies would appreciate being told whether their plans have won official approval and the City would welcome the first indications of quite what Mrs Beckett meant by her avowal that the sole criteria for judging mergers was to be competition.

In fact, another criteria may impinge upon her thinking over the Stena/P&O deal. The colourful competition supremo in Brussels, Karel Van Miert, has indicated that, with a few caveats, he is minded to allow the merged operation, which would be 60 per cent owned by P&O and 40 per cent by Stena.

Would the President really want to pick a fight with Brussels? Were she to decide to veto the merger, she could find herself heading to the European court, and a potential battle with Van Miert. Britain would surely want to be seen to be working with Europe in such matters.

The question of who finally determines competition policy is likely to arise in even more pointed fashion over the planned merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan. For the moment, the deal is not even being put under Mrs Beckett's scrutiny, going instead straight to the European authorities, although her interventionist tendencies are likely to come into play.

If GMG goes ahead, British jobs will vanish. How will that be viewed under the all-important competition criteria? Jobs will undoubtedly go if Stena and P&O merge their cross-Channel operations: that is part of the aim. The companies argue that only by joining forces can they continue to mount a viable chal-

lenge to Eurotunnel, which now accounts for 40 per cent of tourist cross Channel traffic, about the same proportion that the two ferry operators share.

And they hint that if they can't join forces, they might just be forced to abandon the routes. Then what sort of competition would the tunnel face? And perhaps the thought that another firm should ever drive the Euro trains back into the sidings, but where would the freight turn then?

Perhaps weighing up such imponderables is keeping Mrs B from reaching a decision...

Bernerd catches hotel fever

Elliot Bernerd is on the hunt for more hotels. The chairman of Chelsfield, the property group, is said to be so delighted with the pair of former Forte establishments he purchased from Granada, that

he would like a few more before he floats off this part of his business into a separate company, a glamour stock in the making if ever there was one.

The inventive Bernerd has a knack of spotting angles where others see straight lines. The Westbury hotels in London and New York appealed to him as wonderful locations that were not being properly exploited and already, it seems, he feels that the £90 million purchase brought him a bargain.

Other capital cities around the world could yield similar prizes, and he will sniff them out. He is enthused by the style of operation pioneered by fashionable New York hotelier, Ian Schrager, who is now in partnership with Nigel Wray, another entrepreneur with a keen eye for property. Schrager provides rooms and ambience and leaves it to others, more expert than he, to run restaurants. This will be the Bernerd approach: essentially

that of the landlord rather than full blown hotelier.

He is not restricting his search to the big cities. If there is a country house hotel to be had in close proximity to his Wentworth golf club, he would like to bring that into the group. Wentworth attracts vast numbers of visitors. It grieves Mr Bernerd to have to direct potential business elsewhere, as Wentworth regularly does with those in search of accommodation.

Cliveden would have been a perfect complement to Wentworth but, alas, the price is a trifle high for Mr Bernerd's estimate of value, even allowing for the exotic history that accompanies the location of the famous meetings between Christine Keeler and her Russian friend.

It would make sense to put Wentworth and the hotels into a separate business, with a separate quote, and Bernerd will eventually do just that. There is

no slow down, however, in the rate at which the rest of the business is growing. The Department of the Environment will soon have to pass judgment on whether to allow the company to go ahead with its major extension of the Merry Hill shopping centre near Dudley. Bored with waiting for a decision, Bernerd has just slapped in an application for a further 100,000 sq ft of space there, this time for leisure development.

Regulating regulators

No doubt there will soon be a degree course in utility regulation but, in the meantime, our happy band of watchdogs are learning on the job, and continuing to find their work marked "could try harder".

Yesterday the electricity ubermeister was, for the umpteenth time, accused of not doing his job properly. With water profits soaring and resources leaking, the monopoly water industry is clearly not a text book case of how it should be done either. Then there is gas: today we will see a muted compromise emerge from the ferocious battle

between Clare Spottiswoode and Transco.

But while it is easy to hold individuals up for blame what is really on trial at present — and what the new Government shows no signs of grasping — is the effectiveness of incentive regulation to govern a competitive market.

Regulators are hamstringed between cracking down on the spending projections of companies in order to exert pressure on prices, or risking seeing the infrastructure crumble, or swallowing too readily the companies' pleas for cash, only to see the money pour out to investors. A competitive market must be regulated and regulated toughly. It is not enough to hope the market will win out.

Labour had been hawking in opposition over regulation. It now seems too willing to leave the tricky subject well alone.

Fat cat tax

BUDGET fever is gathering pace, as business tries to second guess what the new Chancellor may have in mind. But while public talk is all of dividend tax credits and stamp duty, what is really concerning many in the City is a growing fear that the new puritans in Government are desperately seeking a way to punish the fat cats without hurting those middle-range salary earners who voted them into power.

Watson & Philip speed up shop plan

Watson & Philip, the convenience store group, has accelerated the opening programme for its Allday stores. It will open around 200 stores this year, taking the chain to about 725, with another 200 next year.

Pre-tax profit in the six months to April 27, after exceptional, was £7.15 million (£6.7 million). Earnings per share were 11.3p (12p). The company will pay an interim dividend of 5.7p (5.3p) on August 1.

Group loss

Applied Holographics, the securities products group, recorded a loss of £200,000 (£176,000 profit) in the year to March 31. The loss per share was 0.9p (0.7p profit). There is no dividend.

Rixson up

Firth Rixson, the engineer, raised pre-tax profits from £3 million to £6.5 million in the six months to March 31. Earnings are 3.4p (1.4p) and the half-year dividend is doubled to 0.8p.

Wellman fall

Pre-tax profit at Wellman, the engineering contractor, halved to £5 million. Earnings fell from 5.7p to 2.4p. The total dividend rises 2.8 per cent to 1.85p.

Profit rise

Mountview Estates raised pre-tax profits from £7.9 million to £8.4 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rise from 115.5p to 122.5p. Total dividend rises from 27p to 42p.

Tinsley ahead

Tinsley Robor, the packaging group, raised pre-tax profits 30 per cent to £4.6 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rose 3.5 per cent to 8.8p. The total dividend rises 24 per cent to 2.8p.

Harris says son merits Carpetright board seat

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LORD HARRIS of Peckham, chairman and chief executive of Carpetright, yesterday defended the decision to put his 28-year-old son, Martin Harris, on its main board.

Mr Harris, who joined the company in 1991, has been made responsible for advertising and marketing. Lord Harris said that the appointment was "a first step" for his son, but would not say whether he would eventually take over the running of the company.

Lord Harris, 55, insisted that it was the rest of the board that had asked for Mr Harris to join them, something that both he and his son had resisted. "Martin asked not to go on the board because he thinks it's a disadvantage, but he deserves it and we need him on the board," he said.

The move follows a dispute about the appointment of Simon Wolfson to the board of Next, of which his father, Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, is non-executive chairman.

Mr Harris joined Lord Harris and John Kitching, Carpetright managing director, and Ian Sneyd, finance director, for the presentation of the company's final results to analysts and the press yesterday.

"Martin is obviously being groomed for the main job," one analyst commented. The results showed a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £32.2 million. The company's shares, which have fallen from more than 600p earlier this year to a low of 435p, closed yesterday at 478p, up 37p.

Analysts increased their forecasts for the current year, with BZW moving from £37.5 million to £40 million.

Like-for-like sales rose by 10 per cent in the last financial

year, and were 4 per cent ahead in the first seven weeks of this year. Sales growth last year was fuelled by heavy discounting, of which there is less this year. Lord Harris said that although sales growth has slowed, gross margins are much healthier. Last year, the gross margin grew from 45.6 to 49 per cent.

Lord Harris denied that the company was slowing its expansion programme, saying that last year's record number of openings was an anomaly because of the launch of its larger Carpet Depot stores. The company plans 39 openings this year, against 65 last year. Capital spending this year will be less than half last year's £32.6 million.

A final dividend of 11.5p, due on September 15, makes a full-year 19p (14.5p).

Tempos, page 28



Lord Harris of Peckham with his son Martin

EMI to give investors £500m in bonus issue of new shares

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

EMI, the music group, intends to return £500 million to shareholders through a bonus issue of new "B" shares and a capital reorganisation.

The proposed return is equal to about 114.5p per ordinary share, in line with the commitment that the company made last month to return about 10 per cent of its market capitalisation to shareholders.

Shares in EMI, which is hoping for great success from

the new Radiohead album released on Monday, fell 6p, to £11.61, with the City slightly disappointed that the repayment to shareholders is not cash.

The company said that the capital issue would be funded from increased borrowing, with the higher level of debt reducing the overall cost of capital within the group.

EMI will issue, on a one-for-one basis, special "B" shares redeemable by the company at

a value of 114.5p from July 22. EMI is also splitting its shares on a two-for-one basis to increase marketability, and every ten ordinary shares will then be consolidated into nine shares.

EMI separately spent £1.4 million on a buy-back of 120,000 shares at £11.70.

Dealings in the new shares are expected to begin on July 18, provided that the plan receives approval at a special general meeting that day.

Premier Farnell remains gloomy

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Premier Farnell fell back to their recent low point as the electronic components distributor said that it had seen no pick-up in trading in its main catalogue businesses.

The shares eased 6p, to 457p, as the company said that there had been "no discernible change" in trading at its UK and US catalogue operations, which provide about two thirds of group sales.

Analysts said that the statement was in line with Premier Farnell's past comments and with what they learnt on a recent trip to the US.

Premier Farnell's shares crashed from almost 700p in January when the company shocked investors with a badly handled warning about weak markets in the US and the UK.

Malcolm Bates, chairman, told yesterday's annual meeting that the company was continuing to benefit from improvements on the Continent and in Australia, and that newer businesses in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong had started well.

Hazlewood opts for convenience with £45m sale

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

HAZLEWOOD FOODS has sold its potato products business for £45 million to concentrate on developing its convenience food operations.

The sale of Fri D'O'r, which operates in the Czech Republic and The Netherlands, to Danisco of Denmark, will cost Hazlewood about £3.5 million in earnings in the current year, which is similar to the cost of BSE to the company last year.

The cash from the sale will be used to invest in other operations and pay off debts, reducing gearing to 27 per cent. In the year to March, pre-tax profit including exceptional was £32.5 million (£34 million).

John Simons, the chief executive, welcomed yesterday's 5.5p rise in the company's

share price to 116p but said he thought that Hazlewood remained underrated by the market.

Albert Fisher's talks with a potential bidder, revealed last week, could spark another round of takeovers in the food sector, Mr Simons said. But he reckons that Hazlewood shareholders have not yet seen the benefits of recent changes which have focused the company on the higher-margin convenience food market.

Convenience and delicatessen foods now account for two thirds of Hazlewood's sales. The bestselling products are sandwiches and chilled ready-to-eat meals.

The company will pay a final dividend of 4.5p (4.3p) on October 1, giving a total for the year of 6.9p (6.7p).

Pound hits Eurotherm

EUROTHERM, the electronics company, blamed a 21 per cent dip in pre-tax profits on the strong pound, which wiped out earnings from overseas subsidiaries and sales (Oliver August writes).

Sir James Hann, chairman, said that translation and transaction costs had an ad-

verse £4 million effect in the first half of the financial year. Sterling's strength had also affected exporters among Eurotherm's UK customers.

In the half to April 30, pre-tax profits fell to £14.7 million, from £18.7 million. Earnings per share fell to 10.8p (13.4p). The dividend rises to 4.2p (4p).

Friendly
HOTELS PLC

1996
RESULTS

RESULTS IN BRIEF

TURNOVER
PRE-TAX PROFIT
DIVIDEND
EARNINGS PER SHARE (BASIC)

1996
HOTELS & CATERING
(CONTINUING OPERATIONS)
£'000
39,579
4,468
5.7p
10.7p

- The hotel division gave a good account of itself and improved both company and average room rates achieved compared to the previous year, and these have been further enhanced in the current year to date. There is ample scope for further growth.
- The two year Master Franchise Agreements with Choice Hotels International, signed in May 1996, is fundamental to our growth strategy and also resulted in Choice, one of the world's largest hotel operators, investing £10 million in Friendly to assist the construction and acquisition of ten hotels. Since signing the Master Franchise, a significant number of hotels have been added.
- The Group now consists of 56 properties with 4,707 rooms, of which 22 hotels with 1,322 rooms are franchised. This compares with 30 hotels with 3,100 rooms, a year ago.
- Fully diluted net assets amount to 20p per ordinary share.
- We have greatly improved the professionalism and efficiency of our operations and management and with the appointment of a new Chief Executive and Finance Director, 1997 is off to a good start and should prove to be a successful year and lay the foundation for greater benefits to the years to come.



First Choice For Value

For a copy of the latest Report and Accounts please apply to the Secretary, Friendly Hotels PLC, Premier House, 10 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB

Engels-Hollandse Beleggings Trust N.V.
(English and Dutch Investment Trust)
Established in Amsterdam

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Monday 30 June 1997 at 10.00 hours at the Le Meridien Apollo Hotel, Apollolaan 2, Amsterdam.

Shareholders wishing to attend the General Meeting of the Company must deposit their shares not less than seven days before the Meeting with Staal Bankiers N.V., Lange Hoofstraat 8, 2501 CH Den Haag or with Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3JG. A deposit certificate will be issued to each shareholder which, upon surrender, will entitle them to vote at the Meeting.

Holders of shares registered with the Company in its Shareholders' Register must inform the Board of Managing Directors in writing at least four days prior to the Meeting that they intend to attend the Meeting in person or by proxy.

Holders of Participation Certificates issued by Royal Exchange Assurance who wish to attend and vote at the Meeting must contact the Trustee Department of Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3JG at least ten days before the Meeting.

Royal Exchange Assurance is prepared to issue a power of attorney for the same number of shares held in trust as the Certificateholders shall have deposited with Royal Exchange Assurance.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1996 and of the Resolutions to be put before the Meeting will be available at the offices of the company.

To the meeting shall be brought forward a proposal of the meeting of holders of priority shares aimed at an amendment of the company's articles of association (i.e. an increase of the company's authorised share capital). A copy of the proposal including the verbatim text of the proposed amendment is deposited as of today with the custodian of the company for inspection by the shareholders and holders of depositary receipts and is available free of charge to shareholders and holders of depositary receipts.

Board of Management
Engels-Hollandse Beleggings Trust N.V.
Wissenaan 16 June 1997

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A bulldog with a firm grip on his ego

As BSKyB's chief announces his departure, Eric Reguly reports on a career that changed satellite broadcasting

Samuel Hewlings Chisholm is more respected than loved. The square-jawed New Zealander looks like a bulldog and invites comparisons to James Cagney. At Channel 9, the Australian television network he ran before he was poached by Rupert Murdoch and dispatched to Britain to salvage Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting, he had a sign on his desk that read: "To err is human; to forgive is not my policy."

Chisholm has a bruising, in-your-face style that made management hard for employees who work hard and earn his unwavering loyalty. David Chance, the BSKyB deputy managing director who joined Sky a year before its 1990 merger with BSB, was one of those who learned the hard way. Chance, who was instrumental in turning the struggling group into one of the most powerful forces in television, an effort that gave him a stomach ulcer.

Chance was treated like a son in return. He earned more than £2.6 million last year and Chisholm bought him a Harley Davidson motorcycle, which was delivered by the Playboy pin-up Miss October at his 40th birthday party in April. Chance, of course, has had no time to learn

how to drive the machine. The dynamic duo, one of the most successful one-two acts in TV history, have now decided to call it quits. Chisholm, 57, suffers from asthma, a disorder that made the life of his two brothers and father a misery. He said: "Running BSKyB has been a most wonderful experience and very stimulating, but it has also been very demanding... my doctors have advised me that I should not take on the next stage of BSKyB's development."

In January Chisholm will cease being chief executive but will remain as a director. Chance is leaving at the same time and will become a BSKyB "consultant", a role that will see him work on the launch of the company's 200 digital channels next year. Inevitably, rumours circulated that their departure was part of a management shake-up orchestrated by Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of The News Corporation, (News International, the subsidiary of News Corp that owns *The Times*, owns 40 per cent of

BSkyB.) The rumours have not been substantiated. Murdoch, in fact, offered Chance the top job. Chance could not face another three years of 80-hour weeks, however, and said he wanted to be taken out of the running. Roger Luard, the chief executive of Flextech, whose channels form part of BSKyB's basic service, said: "I think David has decided that the sheer stress and pressure of running a company that big would be too much."

His replacement has not been chosen, though it seems that Elisabeth Murdoch, 28, Murdoch's daughter, who is BSKyB's general manager of broadcasting, is destined for greater things. Chisholm is to be replaced by Mark Booth, the 40-year-old American who is chief operating officer of JSkyB, News Corp's satellite venture in Japan.

The tributes to Chisholm and Chance were endless yesterday, but it was the market that paid them the greatest compliment. BSKyB shares fell 2½, to 566½p, an indication that

investors fear the company's growth momentum cannot be sustained in its absence.

While there is no doubt that Chance will resurface in a top TV or entertainment job in Britain or America after a good rest, Chisholm plans to take it easy. He has a resort home and a ranch in Australia and has literally millions of pounds to spend. He earned £4.7 million last year and has shares worth another £5 million stashed in the executive bonus scheme.

Chisholm is not a rags-to-riches story. His father was a prosperous New Zealand farm owner who sent his son to Kings College in Auckland, one of the few schools in the country that charged a fee.

His first career was hardly thrilling — he became a salesman for Johnson's Wax — but Ronda, his bride, a former Miss New Zealand, added a touch of glamour to his life. A natural salesman, Chisholm joined Channel 9 in Melbourne, where he sold advertis-

ing, at age 24 and worked his way up the ladder. He reached managing director but left in the late 1980s after Alan Bond bought the network. Murdoch, impressed by his record at Channel 9, lured him to Britain to face the greatest challenge of his career. Chisholm's job was to merge Sky with BSB at a time when the companies were collectively losing £14 million a week. The sceptics outnumbered the optimists and the pushy foreigner was given little chance of succeeding. Through relentless pushing, cost-cutting and deal making, BSKyB was able to break even in 1992. Buying the rights to Hollywood films and sports coverage, notably the rights to live FA Premiership football coverage, made BSKyB the most successful new broadcaster since the war. "Sam created the template for other satellite broadcasters around the world," Luard said.

BSkyB now has more than six million customers and a market capitalisation of £10 billion, which makes it larger than News Corp itself. Chisholm once joked that BSKyB should buy News Corp. He never let his ego get as big as his company. "At the end of the day, I am just another employee like everyone else," he said.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Why Brown will outface the angry bulls

Gordon Brown's City honeymoon appears to be over. Bank management of interest rates was welcome; the new monetary policy committee is impressive; his Mansion House speech was eloquent. Even the substitution of an inflation target for the previous inflation ceiling has gone down quite well. But now he is preparing his first Budget, and leaks suggest that he is not planning to take just another nibble at Norman Lamont's advance corporation tax cherry (for it was Lamont who in 1993 first reduced the value of the ACT clawback to pension schemes). No — he is going to swallow it whole.

No tax privilege at all? If so, down goes the value of company pension funds, and out go the tax advantages of City-run pension schemes. No wonder, then, that the FTSE is falling at about 1 per cent a day (and will fall by about 10 per cent in the end, on learned estimates). What a dreadful man, after all. If Brown were running for City sainthood, Green-span style, he might have second thoughts. But it seems likelier that he rather enjoys the outrage (which should improve his standing with old Labour); and as seen from the Treasury, his plan has some solid merits.

Beyond the short-term, and in any case questionable, gain in corporation tax revenue, asset price inflation has already been checked, no doubt to the relief of the Bank of England. If the end of Miras checks house prices too, so much the better. Some actuaries have argued that it is all a waste of time: companies will divert all the money the Treasury hopes to collect into their depleted pension funds. On most estimates, this is a gross overstatement. There may be a pause in company tax payments, but the long-term revenue gains are sure — and Brown is a man for the long term.

There could be two immediate gains that have not been much noticed: cheaper government funding and some fall in over-valued sterling. This might be deplored by some in the City, but not by the Bank, which sees sterling as a dilemma.

How so? Because the existing ACT relief not only helps the City but also makes British equities, which attract relief, relatively more attractive than overseas shares. If the ACT credit is abolished, then actuaries should be advising pension funds to switch some funds out of equities into gilts (cheaper government funding) or into foreign shares.

This would take some of the pressure off sterling. It should also help manufacturing shares, where margins respond dramatically to the exchange rate (as British Steel has complained) relative to financials and services. All music to a Labour Chancellor — even new Labour. To be sure, any impact on sterling depends on the future behaviour of fund managers: the direction is clear, but it would be futile to try to guess how much or how soon, for fund managers take their decisions slowly. But at least, it can only work one way.

The impact on private saving is more ambiguous. Do people save because the market is rising, or because they have some money left over? If so, the impact could be negative. Or do they save to provide some target fund for retirement? If that is the case, and it seems likelier, then they might behave like companies, and save more. The rainy-day motive could also persuade those enjoying demutualisation windfalls to save more and spend less — again, welcome in its own right.

Add it all together — a certain long-term gain in tax revenue, of perhaps £6 billion at current values; a likely (though marginal) relief for sterling; and a possible stimulus to private saving, and it begins to look irresistible. And that is before you enjoy the music of far cats wailing. No body of men, after all, deserves much less charity than the professional fund managers, who — thanks only to their tax privileges — have been enjoying enormous rewards for what has been, on average, lousy performance. Will only able managers get fat in future? That would be the icing on the cake.

American workplace is being paralysed by fear of litigation

Excuse factory must serve as warning for Britain says Tunku Varadarajan

Anyone who was flabbergasted by the recent House of Lords ruling in *Malik v BCCI* — in which two former employees of the fraud-riddled bank were allowed to claim compensation from the liquidators for the "stigma" that is now alleged to hamper their rehiring by other employers — should read a riveting new book from America called *The Excuse Factory*. It will soon dawn on the reader, no more than perhaps a dozen or so pages into this 378-page effort, that Britain is still far, far away from the litigious lunacy that reigns in the United States. We should breathe a sigh of relief while we can. Let the book serve as a warning of the way things might become if this country were to drop its guard.

The author, Michael Olson, a senior fellow at New York's Manhattan Institute, has shown what is wrong — and why — with the American workplace. Mr Olson's thesis, in a nutshell, is that "employment law is paralysing the American workplace."

His book, written in the best traditions of reformist polemic, is smudged with one bewildering real-life case after another, each showing how the law has turned every employee into a potential plaintiff out to "shake one's boss by the ankles until coins roll out."

What exactly is Mr Olson talking about? Consider this example from the front page of *The Washington Post* of April 8: "In January, a former truck driver for Ryder Systems Inc won a \$5.5 million jury verdict after claiming, under the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, that Ryder unfairly removed him from his



American offices, paranoid at the best of times, as exemplified by the film *Working Girl*, now find themselves in the grip of employee power

position after he suffered an epileptic seizure, saying his health condition could be a safety hazard. During the time he was blocked from his job at Ryder, the driver was hired by another firm, had a seizure behind the wheel and crashed into a tree."

There are other egregious examples, all stemming from what Mr Olson calls the law's "venture into freelance social reconstruction". In October 1993 Northwest Airlines announced that it had agreed to rehire pilot Norman Prouse as a ground trainer, three years after he had been sacked for flying a passenger plane with a blood-alcohol level 60 times greater than the permitted maximum for a pilot. Mr Prouse went to a "drying out" clinic and then came back to Northwest for a job.

Had he not been rehired, the disgraced former pilot could have sued the company for millions. The airline chickened out of a court battle it would probably have lost, because the law gives powerful rights to the "rehabilitated".

Under the pressure of law-

suits, the testing of potential employees has been all but eliminated. For example, an Ohio federal judge rejected a timed test where prospective firefighters ran upstairs carrying a heavy sack (used to simulate the body of an unconscious adult). The men outperformed the women, so the test was ruled unfair.

Mr Olson's book would make amusing reading but for the fact that it is so depressing. He lists the following job interview questions which could reap potential lawsuits for employers if asked of applicants: do not ask if an applicant grew up "in the area" (his answer might reveal his national origin); do not ask when he or she went to college (opens up the risk of an "ageism" suit); do not ask where he or she lives (are you, perchance, trying to snoop into credit records); and do not ask a woman if she wants to be called Miss, Mrs or Ms.

American courts have even ruled that it is "improper" to ask an applicant if he or she has a criminal record, a history of mental illness or a

problem with alcohol. Lawsuits over employment references have led to the collapse of the job reference system in numerous industries and professions. So fearful are firms of being sued for "defamation" or "conscious indifference" that references are merely chronological catalogues of an employee's time at a firm.

As the body of law designed to "accommodate the disadvantaged" in the American workplace grows larger, virtually every decision made by employers has become the subject of a potential lawsuit. American jurisprudence now recognises, to all intents and purposes, "a new right to sue".

Before employment became the cast-iron "entitlement" that it is today, either side could end the employer-employee relation on short notice, "much as we are free to stop dealing with a tradesman if we grow dissatisfied with his service". The courts, however, now "dictate that a working relationship be continued indefinitely against one side's

will". And since the days of slavery are over, that side is always the employer. In America today, there is effectively "no right to sack someone you would rather not have working for you".

Mr Olson draws an intriguing comparison between employment and matrimony. Whereas once the law required people to show good cause before they could get out of a marriage, leaving employment to the free will of the parties, the situation is now completely inverted. If a dispute arises at home, the parties are allowed to make "a fresh start"; if it arises at the workplace, the employer "may have to stick it out forever".

The author also wishes for a return to the days when workplace disputes were resolved through union negotiations. There was then a greater sense of proportion, as well as an understanding of the true nature of the employment. Today's "negotiators", lamentably, are the lawyers who encourage employees to sue, grab it and run.

A lawyer's guide on the

market, called *Sue Your Boss*, tells employees: "The laws are very much in your favour, waiting to be used. Vast sums can be had." Another guide tells of "a jury award out there with your name on it".

Mr Olson tells a bleak story. It is, as yet, America's alone. Could it soon be ours?

The Excuse Factory by Michael Olson is published by The Free Press, New York, 1997.

An easy touch

AN OUTBREAK of generosity at the Stock Exchange. Giles Vardey, director of market development until March, has been awarded a £129,000 pay-off — about 70 per cent of his basic annual salary. Very nice, especially as in December he resigned, we all assumed, after being passed over as chief executive in favour of Gavin Casey.

So let me get this right. Vardey quits of his own free will, is not replaced, is given

an office and time to find another well-paid job — which subsequently materialises, running the European brokerage division of Fidelity — and then gets most of his one-year rolling contract paid anyway?

The Exchange is muttering about gentlemanly behaviour, and how the payment could have been a lot more. Not easy to see how. The other executives' pay seems to have risen a bit smugly, too, by 21 per cent for the chairman, John Kemp-Welch. Apparently it's been a difficult year, what with firing the previous chief executive, Michael Lawrence, in January 1996. It's tough at the top.



"Do we stand well back or approach it?"

● **LORD HARRIS** of Peckham's other job as Tory Party treasurer comes to an end this week. This born salesman could not resist plugging his leadership candidacy yesterday: "I'm a Hague man, but 100 per cent back in Carpenters." Somehow one has the impression that a certain per cent of him, or of his money, will always be committed to the Tories.



Simon's slot

GOLDMAN SACHS partners should shortly confirm the appointment of Simon Robertson, the former deputy chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. Talks between the American securities house and Robertson, also believed to have been approached by Morgan Stanley, are going well, I hear. Robertson left Kleinwort in February after a row over plans to shift some activities to Frankfurt. The partners must vote on such a senior appointment, and it seems unlikely that he

will become one of them immediately. But expect such an elevation before too long.

● A QUIETER life beckons for one battle-scarred entrepreneur. Bob Jones, who has started and sold three information technology companies, is moving in-house to Schroder Ventures to advise the technology team there. The venture capital outfit recently lost leisure expert Eric Walters. Jones turned 50 last month and admits that this watershed helped to trigger his change of direction, as did pressure from Mrs Jones, who felt they had lived on a knife-edge for long enough. True, his first start-up had used the family home as security. "I look back on those times, the things I did and the guarantees I signed, and I frighten myself," he admits.

Gentle hint

YOU soon get to know whether you are in or out with the current administration. Sir Christopher Benson, one of our most-travelled company bosses, will not be re-applying for the post of chairman of the Funding Agency for Schools, the quango that passes on £1.8

billion a year from the Government to the grant-maintained sector. The former chairman of Boots, MEPC, Costain and a fair few others is not prepared to go through the indignity of putting in his CV along with all the other interested applicants for the £30,000-a-year job after it was rather tactlessly advertised in the national papers. The Agency insists it is not making a point, merely applying Nolan in all its awful majesty. Possibly. But Sir Christopher does not strike one as a natural for New Labour.

MARTIN WALLER



Sir Christopher Benson: to the back of the class

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■ VISUAL ART 1
A "city within a city": the Hayward Gallery mounts a show called *Rhapsodies in Black*...



■ VISUAL ART 2
... evoking Harlem in the era when it was at the forefront of American art and music

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC 1
At the South Bank Maurizio Pollini completes his Beethoven sonata cycle to huge audience acclaim



■ MUSIC 2
... and at the Spitalfields Festival Judith Weir's fine new Piano Concerto is premiered

The no-go area that lured butterflies

VISUAL ART:
Clive Davis on a show that evokes the days when the chic and cheerful held court in Harlem

To the writers and artists who made it their home, it was "a city within a city". When *The New Yorker's* Jervis Anderson published his history of the early years of Manhattan's black metropolis he gave his book the evocative title, *The Great Black Way*.

The words have an ironic ring now, so profoundly is modern Harlem associated with images of urban decay. True, tourists still crowd into the galleries of the Abyssinian Baptist church on Sunday mornings and there are gospel music brunches at a restaurant named after the notorious Cotton Club. But the era when *The Lady is a Tramp* told of fashionable ladies journeying uptown in ermine and pearls is long gone.

The glamour and mythology of the surge of creativity known as the Harlem Renaissance will be explored in *Rhapsodies in Black*, a multimedia exhibition which opens at the Hayward Gallery tomorrow. As well as introducing artists such as Aaron Douglas to a wider audience, the show will take a self-consciously broad-brush approach by pointing to the Afro-American influence on such figures as Britain's own Edward Burne-Jones.

The exhibition's co-organiser, the American art historian Richard Powell, sketches more of the cultural background in his new study *Black Art and Culture in the 20th Century*, published by Thames and Hudson. An added dimension to the South Bank exhibition will also come in the form of music and film clips by performers including



Archibald J. Motley Jr's *Blues* (1929) and Charles Alston's *Girl in a Red Dress* (1934): two of the paintings in the Hayward Gallery's new evocation of the days when Harlem was the place to be seen

Duke Ellington and Paul Robeson.

One other highlight should be a re-creation, featuring the actor Clarke Peters, of the goings-on at the soirées organised by the cosmetics heiress, A'Lelia Walker. Said to be the richest woman in Harlem, Walker took her role as patron of the arts so seriously that she turned the ground floor of her town house into a meeting place and watering hole called the Dark Tower Tea Club.

Here was a salon where the assertive, self-confident "New Negro" could swap gossip or debate his role in the vanguard of social change. Taking

their cue from the influential historian and polemicist W.E.B. Du Bois, the artists and professionals who belonged to the "Talented Tenth" of their race placed their faith in cultural uplift as a means of achieving political equality.

Not everyone was convinced. In his autobiography, *The Big Sea*, the poet Langston Hughes observed: "Some Harlemites thought the millennium had come. They thought the race problem had been solved through art, plus the society pianist Gladys Bentley. I don't know what made any negroes think that — except that they were mostly intellectuals doing the think-

ing. The ordinary negroes hadn't heard of the negro Renaissance. And if they had, it hadn't raised their wages any."

Still, it was for many a time of unabashed optimism and energy. In the Jazz Age, New York was governed by the hard-living mayor Jimmy Walker, a former songwriter who declared: "No civilised man goes to bed the same day he wakes up." Harlem tapped into that spirit during the Prohibition years as a centre of the bootleg liquor industry.

The Cotton Club was one of many establishments where well-to-do whites could find a ready supply of alcohol. Black culture was in vogue.

opera *Porgy and Bess* appeared the following year. *Vanity Fair* noted that the smart set was hiring mixed-race maids "with an eye to their dexterity at dancing the Charleston".

Some sense of this exotic atmosphere is conveyed in one of the best novels to come out of the Renaissance, Jessie Fauset's *Plum Bun*, the beguiling, Jane Austenish story of a light-skinned woman who opts for a kind of freedom by "passing" as white.

When Fauset's heroine makes a rare trip to Harlem she is enchanted by the crowds of smartly dressed people: "They were gossiping, laughing, chattering, combining the customs of the small town with the astonishing cosmopolitanism of their clothes and manners. No-where down town did she see life like this. Oh, this was fuller, richer, not finer but richer with the difference in quality that there is between velvet and silk."

Hughes dated the advent of the Renaissance to the opening in 1921 of Eubie Blake and Noble Sissie's all-black revue, *Shuffle Along*, the hit show that gave the world the song

I'm Just Wild About Harry. Similarly, he saw the sudden death of A'Lelia Walker ten years later, in only her late forties, as a sign that the good times were coming to an end.

The Wall Street crash of 1929 had already begun to take its toll. Hughes wrote: "White people had much less money to spend on themselves, and practically none to spend on negroes, for the Depression brought everyone down a peg or two. And the negroes had but few pegs to fall."

● *Rhapsodies in Black* Art of the Harlem Renaissance, is at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-900 4242) from tomorrow to August 17

“This was richer, with the difference in quality that there is between velvet and silk”

CONCERTS: Journey's end for Pollini in his cycle through the piano sonatas; plus a woman's place in the singer's canon — and among composers

Beethoven role over in triumph

So, the revels now are ended. An evening which had begun with a tense and silent ten minutes of expectation and apprehension ended with a Festival Hall on its feet, acclaiming in ovation after ovation the completion of Maurizio Pollini's seven-recital journey through Beethoven's piano sonatas.

As with all voyages, there

have been good times and bad times for both Pollini and the audience as travelling companions.

The numb tension which can grip Pollini's arms, fingers and entire sensibility was certainly there again at the start. Perhaps the enormous burden of expectation, perhaps the weight of sheer fatigue blurred the contours of mel-

Maurizio Pollini
Festival Hall

ody and the clarity of voicing in a less than lively opening of the Op 109 Sonata in E. The *Prestissimo* seemed driven, lacklustre, and the final ever-metamorphosing song was full of innigiteil, inwardness, yes — but it was arduous, closed in on itself, reluctant to communicate.

As the opening of the Op 110 Sonata mirrored its way out of the material of its predecessor, clearer air was breathed, clearer fingerwork released. Over-peddalling and a degree of tension still tended to sap the energy and blur the impact of the second movement's springing chords.

But as the last, long movement grew from tentative recitative to song to fugue, so Pollini seemed to draw confidence and strength from the music itself, and his wonderfully slow crescendo of chords, retreating once more into a single, questing voice, found a true sense of focus.

As if reassured by the heartfelt applause which greeted his return after the interval, Pollini at last seemed able to become totally absorbed in the musical substance of Beethoven's last Sonata, the Op 111 in C minor, just as the Sonata itself finally assimilated so much of what had gone before. Octaves rang out, trills be-

came a mighty roar of resonance, rhythmic intensification and harmonic modulation were felt emotionally, as well as structurally.

And when all passion had been spent, the final *Arietta* moved as if in infinite space and infinite time, fragmenting, transmuting and transforming its song as if moving towards a final, quivering dematerialisation of sound itself.

HILARY FINCH

Weir in a world of her own



Maurizio Pollini: musical voyage ends in rapture

BT Scottish Ensemble/Howard Spitalfields

NEXT year, Judith Weir will become sole artistic director of the Spitalfields Festival. She made her mark on this year's programme last Thursday, with a new piano concerto, a piece that should come to occupy an important place in the composer's output. It is not a "big" work: the virtuoso rhetoric of the traditional piano concerto is not for Weir, whose scoring here for an "orchestra" of nine strings reflects her fresh approach.

The concerto is the latest fruit of her collaboration with the pianist William Howard, who performed it alongside one of the most lightly scored Mozart concertos, K449 in E flat major, in a very satisfying programme by the BT Scottish Ensemble. Howard played both pieces with

Not just a pretty voice

Catherine Bott
Purcell Room

Attempts in recent years to redress the gender balance in the creative arts have resulted in an increased interest in the composers of "herstory", from Hildegard of Bingen through Fanny Mendelssohn to Dame Ethel Smyth. Catherine Bott's Purcell Room recital focused the spotlight on one (yes, there were others) of the best women composers of the early Baroque: Barbara Strozzi.

Renowned as a singer, she had also studied composition with Francesco Cavalli from

an early age, and moved in the highest artistic circles in Venice in the first half of the 17th century.

Strozzi's music reflects her virtuosity as a performer but is far from being merely superficially brilliant, and Bott's selection revealed a song-writing genius able to compose with fluency in the various genres cultivated at the time but always with her personal stamp: a marked tendency to experimentation in both the harmonic language and the vocal writing.

A good example of the technical reach of her music might be *Pensaci ben mio* core, with its plaintive little *arioso*-style refrain framing the wide-ranging, demanding vocal line of the verses.

This also saw Bott at her best in the first half of the concert: the refrain was perfectly measured, and there were powerful moments, as at the soaring phrase on the word "pleasure". But at other times the voice seemed somewhat strained, lacking its usual bloom.

After the interval she seemed to get into her stride: the two substantial pieces that ended the programme were compellingly performed, with the voice focused and free.

The lament *Lagrima mie*, one of Strozzi's more experi-

mental songs, with a bold opening of an unexpected melodic line, was conveyed with a convincing feel for the idiom by Bott, while in *Appresso ai molli argenti*, in which Strozzi is at her most operatic — echoes of late Monteverdi abound — she gave a commanding performance of complete vocal and stylistic assurance.

Presumably Strozzi sang without reference to the music, possibly with considerable gesture and facial expression; this may be difficult to bring off before audiences removed by several centuries of listening practice, but there would be much to be said for singing this music, so full of emotional drama, from memory.

In all this, Bott was accompanied by harpsichord (Timothy Roberts) and plucked strings: Frances Kelly on double harp and Paula Chateaufort on theorbo and baroque guitar.

All are accomplished, stylish players who use the different colours of their instruments to good effect in their accompaniments, and in their solo items by contemporary instrumental composers such as Mayone and Castaldi.

It has to be said, however, that the Purcell Room acoustic does not favour plucked strings, and this is a programme I for one would like to hear again in the Wigmore Hall.

TESS KNIGHTON

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FILM

The new British movies succeed best when they aim to please local audiences first



RISING STAR

Andrew Howard's break came when he starred in the BBC's "Welsh Western" series, *Drovers' Gold*

THE TIMES ARTS



DANCE

Pina Bausch's monumental production of *The Rite of Spring* is revived in Paris



POP

Currently voguish Midlands band Spiritualized take time to hit their stride at the Astoria

Cinderella goes to the bonus ball

Thanks to the lottery, but also to a new confidence in its own powers, British film is on the up again. Carol Allen reports

The success of films such as *The English Patient* and *Sense and Sensibility*, featuring English stories and British actors, has raised the question of what a British movie really is. If you are applying for lottery funds, there are clearly defined rules regarding where the investment is coming from and where the film is actually made. But film is not just about money. Movies are also about reflecting a nation's culture, attitudes and way of life.

This is how David Aukin, films supremo at Channel 4, which wholly or partly finances about 20 films a year, defines a British film: "I think it helps if it's made in this country, but that's not the only definition. I don't think that whether the money comes from abroad necessarily determines a film's Britishness. You look at the talent and the story and how it's told. That's what's so exciting about films such as *Secrets and Lies* and *Training Day*: they are films which reflect a specifically British society."

By that definition *Intimate Relations*, which opens on Friday, is a very British movie: a black comedy of adultery and murder set in English suburbia during the sexually repressed 1950s. The first-time writer-director Philip Goodhew remembers a 1960s childhood which was still dominated by the euphemisms and attitudes of the previous decade. "Although it is based on a true story which happened before I was born, I also wrote this from my own experience of living and being an English person," Goodhew says. "I didn't think of foreign markets; I didn't think of markets at all; I wanted to tell a story."

But the international appeal of the film was demonstrated by the battles among distributors to ac-

quire it when it was shown at the American Film Market. For years the problem has been to persuade a British audience to pay money to see a British film. But that is no longer the case, according to Aukin.

"An important film which marked the change was *Shallow Grave*, the first British film for many years to recoup its costs entirely within the UK," Aukin explains. "It told film-makers that there was a British audience and it told British audiences that they could enjoy a British movie. *Brassed Off* was another example of a film which British audiences found for themselves. The American industry first makes films for its own audience and only secondarily for the rest of the world. Then, if the rest of the world is also delighted by them, that's a terrific bonus. That's the way to make movies."

Simon Perry, director of British Screen Finance (the partially government-funded film investment body), has noticed a rise in the standard of the projects he is offered, which he attributes to an increased confidence in the film business. "Things are really buzzing in London, Glasgow, Belfast," he says. "When people feel that what they write or want to produce has a good chance of finding a big audience, they work at their best. There's a lot of proof now that it can happen. British films which might have been considered unmakeable ten years ago are going out and conquering the world."

Last year was a boom time, with 123 films being completed, compared with 73 the previous year. The advance buzz on many is good: Gary Oldman's *Nil By Mouth*, for which Kathy Burke won the Best Actress prize at Cannes; Michael Winterbottom's Bosnian drama, *Welcome to Sarajevo*; Hanif



Christopher Eccleston, Kerry Fox and Ewan McGregor in *Shallow Grave*, the first British film in ages to recoup its costs in the UK alone

Kureishi's tale of Islamic fundamentalism in Bradford, *My Son the Fanatic*; and Judi Dench and Billy Connolly as Queen Victoria and John Brown in *Mrs Brown* are all tipped for success. *Wilde*, starring Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde, is from the same team that made *Tom and Viv*, and promises to repeat that film's commercial and artistic success with its marriage of good-looking costume drama to an intelligent contemporary perspective on its subject.

But raising the finance is still no picnic. Goodhew admits that luck played a big role in getting *Intimate Relations* to the screen. He sent his script to Julie Walters, whom he had never met; she liked it so much she committed to the lead role on the spot. That captured the interest of Handmade Films, which was just being relaunched after a Canadian takeover and was looking for good projects.

Sources of finance are opening

out, though. The BBC and other television companies are now investing in films, and sources overseas are increasingly willing to put up finance. "Ten years ago the classic way to make a film was with Channel 4, British Screen and an American presale," Perry says. "Now producers go all over the world. One factor is the lottery money, which means we've got real money to bring to the table."

Details of how the recently awarded lottery franchises will operate are still to be worked out. Despite criticisms that the money went to companies which already had the wherewithal to raise finance, Perry sees it as a practical step towards building a true British film industry. "What we need are major companies based in Europe on the Hollywood pattern, financing, developing, producing, distributing."

Ultimately, whether a film gets made is down to the determination of the individual. Wannabe film-makers will find some handy tips in Graham Jones's recently published book, *Talking Pictures*. He compiled it two years ago for his final year project at film school by picking the brains of independent film-makers as diverse as Andrew McDonald (*Trainspotting*), Jeremy

Bolt (*Shopping*) and Sara Taylor (*The Young Poisoner's Handbook*), asking basic questions such as "How did you get your first film off the ground?"

Armed with that knowledge, Jones then went back to his native Ireland to make his first feature film, a heist movie for young people called *How to Cheat in the Leaving Certificate*, in which the exam questions play the role normally reserved for diamonds or dollars.

"The most important thing I learnt from all those interviews was that you've just got to do it," he says. "There's a huge number of people who put films in the pipeline, and only a small number of them end up making their movie. That's because they lack the energy. You have to be like a train, saying 'nothing is going to stop me', and then you've got to go for it."

© *Intimate Relations* opens on Friday. Graham Jones's *Talking Pictures* is published by the British Film Institute

Refining the rock of ages

THE queue stretched around the block outside Spiritualized's biggest show yet in their seven-year career, at London's Astoria Theatre on Monday night, with tickets to see the cult Midlands band changing hands for six times their original price.

The main reason for this hysteria is the band's majestic new album, *Ladies and Gentlemen We Are Floating in Space*, in which all their past musical fascinations have finally been ripe and prodigious fruit. Although Spiritualized frontman Jason Pierce has long been fixated with the raw underground rock of the late Sixties and early Seventies, this time he has combined pilledriver guitars with ravishing orchestral strings, soaring gospel choirs and transcendent melodies.

Where once he specialised in blank homages to catatonia, the taciturn singer has now addressed his own turbu-

lent love life in song. The result is a sprawling masterpiece which, almost inevitably, lost something in translation to the Astoria stage.

If Pierce was aiming to challenge rather than indulge this capacity crowd, he could hardly have chosen a more effective starting point than the smouldering 15-minute jazz-blues shuffle of *Cop Shoot Blues*. While this live reading left somewhat muted and unsteady compared with its raucous studio blueprint, which features the New Orleans boogie piano legend Doctor John, it was nonetheless a suitably grandiose opening statement.

Alas, much of the set's first half suffered from a similarly somnolent pace. Pierce plucked languid guitar phrases while his voice alternated between a stoned growl and a tremulous, fragile whisper, but few compositions were delivered with the gusto or sheer volume they deserved.

This was partly the result of the band dragging out several monotonous drone-rock numbers from their back catalogue before giving a fair hearing to their current, more accomplished work. But a listless presentation was at fault too, blunting the impact of even such polished new tunes as *All Of My Thoughts Were With You*.

Spiritualized finally hit their stride with the sublime desolate ballad *Broken Heart* and the crashing, roaring guitar symphony *Come Together*. Both featured four members of the London Community Gospel Choir, clad in white and perched like angels atop a stage-side podium.

Flinging themselves lustily into the set's climax, this quartet duetted with Pierce on *I Think I'm In Love*, which evolved into a foot-stomping gospel headbanger in its closing stages. An audacious, adventurous piece of rock theatre and a fitting finale to an uneven but heroically ambitious show.

STEPHEN DALTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

ANDREW HOWARD

Age 27.

Presently appearing: As Aaron, the juve lead, in the Welsh western *Drovers' Gold* on BBC1 on Fridays.

Fun or what? "It was boyhood dream-type stuff. You were in love, fighting, going through bar-room windows. It's not a big budget movie so you're not allowed ten takes. People are looking at their watches. But there's something so enjoyable about it that you forget all that."

Where did the acting bug come from? "I used to bunk off school and sit in the movies on my own in the afternoons. One film I saw that really made me feel I could do acting was *Mona Lisa*. It had that grimy British quality that I recognised. The acting was superb."

How did he get started? "I left school at 16 and got involved with a theatre troupe that trained actors on tour. Through that I got my first audition for a Devon company called Orchard. That was my real grounding with lots of classical and modern plays and devised stuff. I love the immediacy of theatre. It's just a high form of showing off. That was the only thing I showed any aptitude for in school."

Is being Welsh a help or a hindrance? "At the moment it's a help. Over the past 20 years, even two years ago, it was a hindrance because Welsh characters were so stereotyped. But there's a crowd of us up here in London and there have been two Welsh plays recently, one of which I was in [*Cardiff East* by Peter Gill at the Cottesloe]."

What's next? "I'm a jobbing actor again. Last time I was unemployed, I co-wrote a screenplay which was bought by a company in New York. So I still scribble."

Where would he be now if he hadn't acted? "I don't know. I suppose I dread to think."

W. STEPHEN GILBERT



Making the dark earth move

DANCE: An epic revival of the *Rite of Spring* in Paris



Primitive and unpretty: dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet in Pina Bausch's *Rite of Spring*

George Balanchine can't be refused to touch *Stravinsky's Rite of Spring*, fearing to tread where others have foolishly rushed in. Any choreographic attempt to scale the craggy heights of this century's most towering musical score only succeeds in skittering about on the lower slopes. Even Nijinsky's original 1913 version looks no more than tame decoration.

The exception is Pina Bausch's 1975 setting: a monumental dance event, made doubly so in the present revival by the Paris Opera Ballet (in a programme with Balanchine's *Serenade* and Tudor's *Dark Elegies*) — the first time Bausch's work has been performed by a company other than her own Tanztheater Wuppertal. But it is no surprise that out of the Bausch canon the Parisians have acquired this early piece, which is exclusively danced, rather than one of her subsequent dance-theatre spectacles.

Never before have we seen the Palais Garnier's immense stage thus: covered in a thick layer of dark soil, soft enough for the dancers' bare feet and selected with the scrupulous care normally reserved for elaborate scenery. Nor have we seen Paris's exquisite classical dancers like this: 15 men and 15 women, primitive and unpretty, every muscle and sinew taken over and driven by the music's pulsations (under the baton of the young German conductor, Olaf Henzold). They are human

beings reduced to their rawest animal state, a herd impelled by biological determinism and robbed of free will. Their movement is brute and convulsive: you can hear their panting exhaustion, you watch them become grubby with soil. They are magnificent.

The women stand hunched and shuddery, near naked in flimsy beige shifts which they draw up with childish, ungainly modesty. They are gripped by terror because they know one of them will be the sacrificial victim to mark the end of winter — the Chosen One who dances to the death. The red dress she will wear is passed among them, a rag both fearful and fascinating. They huddle together for comfort, then disintegrate into

panic-stricken scurries as destiny stirs under the surface. And when a woman is chosen (Aurélien Dupont) by the male leader, the music briefly unleashes the colossal power of its drums, like the cracking of the Russian ice in spring. It signals the release of pent-up

sexual longing, the men and women flying like shards into each other's arms.

What makes Bausch's *Rite* so extraordinary is the balance between visceral realism and intervals of vivid, orchestrated geometry: the phalanges of union dance, the circle of

dancers revolving with stately vastness to the music's slow section, like the cycle of the seasons, like life. And then there are Bausch's emotional images: the crowd waiting before the victim like spectators at a bullfight; the girl's frozen terror as she is forced to walk by the man, who pushes her, half holding her up, her feet resisting hopelessly against the loose soil.

Meanwhile, Bausch's own company is in Paris at the Théâtre de la Ville, showing *Nur Du* (Only You), her newest piece. Created last year for an American tour, it pays homage to American popular music of the Fifties and Sixties. The cast perform Bausch's usual mix of sketches, gags and dance: Dominique Mercy appears in drag as an ageing film star. The evening, though, is diffuse and lacks originality. At three hours long, plus interval, it seems tired; but even Bausch must be allowed her honourable failures.

NADINE MEISNER

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Bridging the credibility gap

The estate agent of the year hopes to restore faith in a tarnished profession, says

Eve-Ann Prentice

The image of the money-grabbing yuppie estate agent preying on buyers and sellers in the 1980s has become so embedded in the popular psyche that agents still command little respect among the public.

Tales abound of agents who wasted time and money misleading potential clients, taking them to view rabbit-hutch dwellings beneath motorway flyovers when they specified somewhere quiet, or of garden-loving families who have been sent to view a one-bedroom penthouse flat.

But now that the housing market is off the critical list, the profession is eager to give itself a healthier image.

According to one poll taken in 1990, during the worst of the property slump, estate agents were deemed the laziest of 13 professions, cared the least, and came second only to politicians as least deserving of their salaries and respect in the community.

Now one man has been chosen to represent all that is good and caring about the profession. Stephen Burns, from Bury, Lancashire, has been voted estate agent of the year.

In a contest organised by the National Association of Estate Agents and Nationwide Building Society, Mr Burns and his company, Stephen Burns & Co, were selected best independent residential sales office after nominations by his clients and secret visits by pretend customers.

More than 18,000 people nominated estate agents nationwide in the competition, and 52 finalists gathered in London last month to hear the results.

Awards also went to JHK Homes Ltd of Muswell Hill, London, for best management and lettings office, and to Slater Hogg & Howison, based in Ayr, Scotland, for best corporate residential sales office.

So what is the secret of Mr Burns' success? "In the boom years, people sold out for an easy buck," he says. "Now it is hard



"We don't look at people as a fee," says the award winner, Stephen Burns. "We work seven days a week and I want the work to be seen as interesting and fun"

"We charge a bit more than some, but most of our clients seem to appreciate the service we give"

work and new regulations, such as tougher trade descriptions rules, have tightened the profession.

Mr Burns, 30, joined the Army after leaving school and, unsure of what to do after that, became a corporate estate agent. He set up Stephen Burns & Co 15 months ago.

"I decided to run things on a low-volume, high-quality basis," he says. "We charge a bit more than some, 2 per cent commission, but most of our clients seem to appreciate the service we give. As well as being nominated for this award, we do get thank-you

cards. We don't look at people as a fee. We work seven days a week and I want the work to be seen as interesting and fun. I have no time for hobbies as I am usually at work until 9pm or 10pm." He and his wife, Jackie, a DSS training officer, have two young children and hope to have a

holiday "some time next year." Mr Burns' tips for choosing a good estate agent include visiting the office at the weekend when the boss is more likely to be away to see how well the operation is staffed and run.

"If there are three phones ringing and only one member of

staff present, the chances are that you will be ignored later and that there will be little follow-up on your behalf," he says. "Presentation is important: beware of shabby signboards and offices."

The estate agency competition has been running for five years and this year's contest attracted twice as many nominations as last year. Mr Burns is delighted about his award but knows that estate agents still have a long way to go before they win the public round. Even dentists are held in higher esteem.

"The perception is that we will run up and take your wallet," he

says. "We have to make people relax by building up trust."

Mike Lazenby of Nationwide Building Society, which sponsored the awards for estate agents, says: "There is no doubt that estate agents have had a chequered history, but the fact that we had twice as many people recommending an agent for awards this year seems to show that they are working harder for their clients."

"Mystery shoppers" who posed as clients to test the finalists belonged, said Mr Lazenby, to an unnamed outside company "with a very strict brief".

THE TEST OF A TOP ESTATE AGENT

Attention to detail takes prize

HAVING recently survived the trauma of selling and buying a home, I was well equipped to test the award-winning efficiency of Stephen Burns & Co in Bury, Lancashire. On the pretext of relocating from London, I set out to discover what made the company estate agent of the year.

Estate agents must be most conscious of the truism that there is never a second chance to make a good first impression. Rarely can housebuyers have held such a strong hand as they do at present. In my experience, the only true test of an estate agent's merit is to go through the entire process of both selling and buying a property. It is the former, not the latter, which genuinely sorts the wheat from the chaff.

But not having a house to sell in Bury, I had no choice but to resort to the first-impression test, telephoning a number of agents in the area to make a comparison. The first was a non-starter. They did not even answer the telephone, and there was no answering service either. Maybe it is unduly impatient to expect the phone to be picked up within ten rings, but such is the mark of the consumer age.

The next was better on the telephone answering front, but too high pressure on the sales pitch. Knowing almost nothing about me, apart from how much money I had to spend, the saleswoman opined that she had the perfect house for my requirements. The third was less pressured, in fact almost too laidback, possibly detecting something in my voice that indicated I was not a serious buyer. Hurriedly, she took my name and address. However, when details of the properties arrived in the post, this agency had one of the few houses I would have been interested in viewing.

Finally, I tried Stephen Burns. He was busy on the telephone and, as with all the others, a woman dealt with my inquiry. Without doubt, she was the most efficient and systematic of them all. Her attention to detail was impressive — how many bedrooms did we need, should the house be modern or on the older side, how many reception rooms, did I want a separate dining room, did I have a property to sell? And not only did all the properties she sent fit the stated needs precisely, they were below the minimum price level I had set.

RUTH GLEDHILL

Your obedient servant

Remember the slicked-back hair? The red braces, mobile phones that doubled as co-pieces, Golf GTIs, and those terrible braying voices? Remember the rapacious young men who talked like used-car salesmen and behaved like pimps? Well, they're gone. Gone with the Eighties.

The recession has killed them off. The survivors who made it to the Nineties are those that evolved, Darwinian style, into a smarter, more caring, species — more *The Admirable Crichton* than *Gordon Gecko* of *Wall Street*. Because, to paraphrase Mr Forsythe, in today's market it's service, service, service.

As any estate agent will tell you, the market has shrunk since the Eighties. Confusion, leasehold reform, negative equity, and a new-found caution among mortgage lenders hasn't helped. But the most serious problem is the shortage of properties for sale. Estate agencies have to compete with each other now — unimaginable nine years ago when sales seemed to happen by themselves. To secure an



Competing in a shrinking market, estate agents have become better informed and anxious to please

instruction an agent must offer something more than the other 47 firms operating in the area. To keep it, the agent must be omnipresent at every stage of the sale.

John Woosley, who manages the branch of John Hollingsworth, says: "Preparation is all now. In this market there are no second

chances. When the deal is set, it should go like a torpedo firing from a submarine. In practical terms that has meant a total revolution of our selling methods. Apart from a basic understanding of human psychology, the most important skill is knowledge.

"It's not enough for an agent to act as a broker any more, he

must also be a property adviser. He has to know the legal, financial, and construction aspects of the property business as well as he knows his market values."

In other words, the Nineties agent must know his flying freehold from his leasehold, his fixed from his flexi-mortgage. Some building societies will not lend on conversions. Others have a policy against properties with more than five storeys, or which are set above commercial premises. If the estate agent does not know where the buyer can obtain the right mortgage, the chances are he'll lose the sale and the vendor will take his property elsewhere.

Rebecca Read, head of London sales at Cluttons, which offers a complete package to clients, is blunt: "There is no room in this business for people with low IQs."

Mr Woosley says: "The changes have been good. It has sorted out the men from the boys, and those of us who love the business are still here."

AMANDA FOREMAN

IN THE MARKET

Own your own wishing well

A NEWLY refurbished house in St John Street, Clerkenwell, central London, has come on the market with its own private open well in the basement. It has been designed as an art gallery on the ground floor and basement. Residential accommodation, including a studio with a glazed roof, is on the three upper floors.

Clerkenwell derives its name from the Clerks Well, which is at the junction of Clerkenwell Green and Farringdon Lane, and dates from the 12th century. Despite the drought, the agent, Hurford Salvi Carr, says that the water level of the well is clearly visible.

A nationwide survey by Pilkington UK, the glass company, shows that more men than women are influenced by an attractive interior: 81 per cent of men questioned said that the interior of a property could sway their decision to buy, compared with only 73 per cent of women.

Now that the Glyndebourne opera season has started, opera lovers might be



Grade II cottage, Glynde: £140,000

tempted by a listed Grade II semi-detached cottage in the village of Glynde, at the foot of the South Downs. Strutt & Parker is selling the early 19th-century, four-bedroom property for £140,000. It overlooks the village cricket green and, as it is only two miles north of Glyndebourne Opera House, it is practically within earshot.

Two training yards have come on to the market in Newmarket, Suffolk. Windsor Clive International and Bidwells are selling Hurworth House and Green Lodge.

The owners are retiring and the properties have been run as one for many

years. Winning horses that have been sent out from the yards include Doulab, Athens Wood, Touching Wood and Tingle Creek.

With nearly four acres, the properties have direct access to the Severals, which, in turn, lead to the gallops of Warren Hill. The property as a whole, with two houses, a cottage and 94 boxes, has a price guide of £1.4 million.

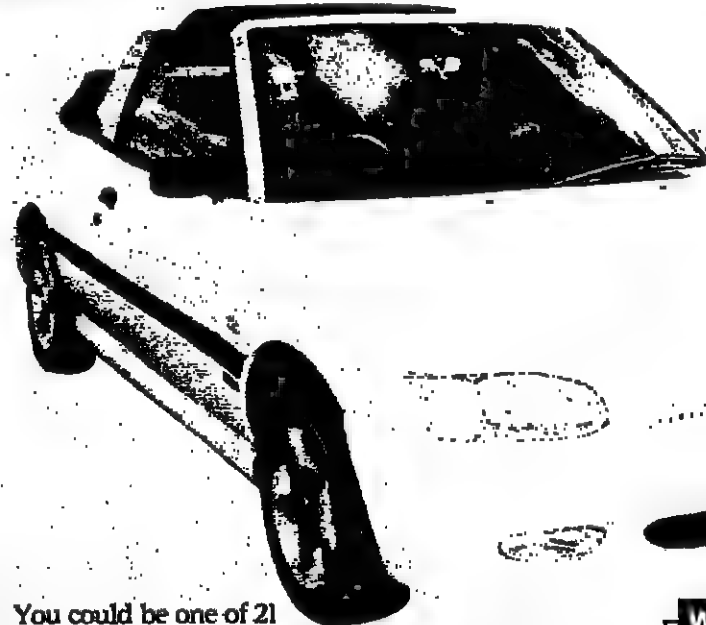
An 18th-century folly near Haslemere in Surrey, built in the style of a romantic castle, is available to rent from Hampton for £10,000 a month. The Deer Tower at Shillingee Park is set in 120 acres of gardens and parkland. The rooms are linked by a spiral staircase in one of its four towers.

In an attempt to solve the problem of limited accommodation, 80 students in York are living in housing over shops in the historic centre of the city as part of a collaboration between the York-based Living Over The Shop (LOTS) and the University of York.

The scheme — which makes use of space that has often been redundant for decades — is in line with government policy, which welcomes increased town-centre housing and the creation of mixed-use developments.

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- Marlene Dietrich, the singer who became a Forces sweetheart, died
- The first digital mobile phone was authorised for sale
- David Platt became the most expensive football player when he went to Juventus for £8 million

FORD'S 21 YEARS



TOKEN 15

CHANGING TIMES

Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

Focus on your future – attend our Open Day

Friday 20th June 1997, RSA,
8 John Adam Street, London WC2. 11.00am until 6.30pm.
Nearest underground: Charing Cross or the Embankment

As one of the world's largest professional services firms, at Ernst & Young, we believe that recruiting the right individuals is integral to our continued growth and success. If you have a GCSE (or equivalent) in English and Maths, together with good typing skills, why not find out what we have to offer.

Whether you are a Junior Secretary, an Administrative Assistant or Senior PA, give yourself the chance to progress your career in a dynamic, friendly environment. Discover how by coming along to our Open Day. Talk to some of our staff, meet with a member of our HR team and learn more about the opportunities available to you.

ERNST & YOUNG

The United Kingdom firm of Ernst & Young is a member of Ernst & Young International.

ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES

PA to the MD

Excellent package

Following promotion within the Group, Estée Lauder are looking to fill one of the most important roles in the company - PA to the MD.

Estée Lauder are dedicated to the very highest standards of service, and the personal qualities needed to successfully replace the current PA will be of the highest standard.

You will provide a secretarial, administrative and general support service and have a degree of computer literacy. However, this is only half the story. The key function is expert liaison. You will need to prepare figures and forecasts for meetings and interface with senior personnel including US

Central London

HO Executives, and our major retail partners. You will also have line management responsibility for the Office Facilities, Staff, Reception and Secretary to the MD.

Presence and confidence as well as diplomacy combined with influencing and organisational skills are paramount to the success of this vital role. You must be able to thrive under pressure whilst maintaining an approachable and positive presence.

Please telephone or write for an application form to Sue Rout, Estée Lauder Companies, 71/73 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 0BH. Tel: 0171 409 6897 (24hr answerphone).

UBS
Union Bank of Switzerland

UBS Asset Management London

Team Secretary – Fund Management

Excellent banking benefits

City

UBS Asset Management London Limited is the parent company of PDFM Limited, one of the UK's leading fund managers with over £50 billion under management.

We are seeking a bright, motivated person to support our bond team of 13. This is a demanding role in a lively and professional environment and therefore experience of working in a large team within a financial organisation is essential.

You will provide a full secretarial/administrative service including typing and preparing routine correspondence, coordinating the preparation of presentational material, organising diaries and arranging meetings, etc.

The successful candidate must be 'A' level educated and have GCSEs (or equivalent) in English language and mathematics. You will have strong technical skills: Word 6.0, Excel and shorthand. You must be prepared to work under pressure and meet demanding deadlines whilst maintaining an efficient and organised approach to the task.

In return you will receive an excellent remuneration package. This includes a housing allowance, private health cover, non-contributory pension scheme, interest free season ticket loan and discretionary performance award.

To apply please send a full CV to:
Linda Tottem, Senior Personnel Officer, UBS Asset Management London Limited
Triton Court, 14 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1PD.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 20th June 1997.

AMERICAN LAW FIRM

Salary £19,000 - £22,000 - Excellent Benefits

Requires two highly experienced secretaries (legal background advantageous but not essential) for Mayfair office. Outstanding typing, administrative and client relation skills required.

CORPORATE

Must be proficient in Windows 95, Word 7.0, plus knowledge Wordperfect 5.1. Some audio.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Must be proficient in Word for Windows 6.0, Excel and Powerpoint. Some audio.

Please reply to Personnel Manager, Box No. 5784

Personal Assistant

Company Director needs a PA to help coordinate property developments, investments, financial affairs, a small charity and various business projects. Confidential, well-equipped two person office located in North Surrey. Graduate or equiv. 26-38, with shorthand, financial/organisational skills, computer literacy. Experience of senior level is essential. 25 hour week, £15,000 p.a. + or -.

A THANK YOU FROM ROYAL MAIL

Royal Mail would like to thank all those people who attended Crème 97 and made use of our exclusive SPECIAL DELIVERY offer guaranteeing that all their exhibition materials got back to the office. During Crème 97, 306 people used SPECIAL DELIVERY, part of the guaranteed delivery services range, to take the strain and hassle out of ensuring their documents and packages arrived by 12.30pm the next working day.

We're sure you'll agree we saved you a lot of sweat and toil, not to mention sore fingers!

It's a fact that more businesses trust Royal Mail with their urgent next working day packages than any other courier. So, if you do have an urgent package or document which needs to arrive by 12.30pm and you weren't able to take advantage of Royal Mail's offer, don't despair. Call the number below and we'll arrange for a free pre-paid envelope to be sent to you so that you can find out just how reliable Royal Mail's guaranteed delivery services are.

Call Freephone 0800 25 0890 before 12.30pm tomorrow to register for your free SPECIAL DELIVERY envelope.

Royal Mail

OFFICE SECRETARY/ ADMIN. ASSISTANT

Required by multi-national legal firm in the City. Knowledge of Word for Windows and Excel. Common sense, sense of humour, and ability to hold the fort. Please apply in person.

FAX CV'S ON 0171 499 4417 NO AGENCIES

Exec Assistant to Chairman

£25k + package We are a small but perfectly formed, work-class British Group. Our success is based on technical and our client's housing and financial independence. The Chairman has a small team developing management systems and growth opportunities, including acquisitions. He is looking for a very bright, creative and determined assistant who will work with, shadow and eventually deputise for him. The job demands a real interest in business, a global outlook and positive attitude. There is no secretarial content. It offers variety, stimulus and very hard work with short notice travel and irregular hours. It might lead anywhere. For more details, visit our website at www.acorp.co.uk/secretary. Please accompany your CV with a letter outlining why this sounds interesting. Send it by email: helena@acorp.co.uk or by fax to Helen on 01633 279155.

PERCELL GROUP Plc

CHELSEA/SOUTH KEN

C.E. 18,000

PA/Secretary.

For busy secretaries in pleasant surroundings. Specialised in the City. Must be confident, organised with good administrative skills, prepared to work on own initiative. Typing 45 wpm. Wordperfect 6.1 for Windows. Applications in writing with CV to: Mr. & Mrs. Bryers, Bryers & Co, 1828, Wilton Street, London SW3 3P.

Fashion PA

c £25k plus benefits North London

As one of today's contemporary fashion retailers on the High Street, we are seeking a first class PA to work for the Managing Director. With three to five years' experience at senior PA level with excellent secretarial and word processing skills, your background should ideally be in retail or a similar environment. Minimum 60wpm with shorthand/speed writing preferred.

You are articulate with impeccable dress and style, a hands on creative juggler with boundless energy, tenacious, and able to plan your workload with military precision.

CALL HANNAH HALEY LAROCHE (Sec. Off) on 0171 287 1115 or fax 0171 494 3549. GRAYTON HOUSE, 2/3 GOLDEN SQUARE, LONDON W1R 3AB.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

PERSONAL SECRETARY TO THE PROVOST

and ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Salary £18,250 p.a. Applications are invited for this role which will suit an experienced person with proven secretarial and administrative skills wanting to work within a small, highly committed team. Applicants should be in sympathy with the aims and objectives of the Cathedral Church and the Anglican tradition. Further details and application form: Sarah King, Administrator, Southwark Cathedral, Kentington Close, London SE1 8DA. Tel: 0171 407 5706 Fax: 0171 257 7388 E-mail: scathedral@cwark.org.uk Closing date for applications: 30 June 1997

BANKING SECRETARIES

Up to £22k + bens

The world renowned investment bank currently has THREE opportunities, all working at Senior Director level. All positions offer superb training and excellent career prospects. To apply you'll need good secretarial skills (60wpm), Powerpoint (for presentation) and experience working in a fast-paced environment. Previous jobs include: Mortgage Sales, STI, Free Lender and City Newswatch. Call Sarah Seeger or Helen Wilkinson in London Law Recruitment for more details. 128 Chancery, London EC2N 6BT. Tel: 0171 606 6236 Fax: 0171 606 6236

Serving local communities

Circle 33 Housing Trust provides low cost, high quality housing to nearly 10,000 households in the South East.

PA to the Director of Policy and Planning

Salary £17,283 - £18,434 (pay award pending)

This is a new post. In this role you will provide secretarial support to the Director of Policy and Planning and also prepare reports and presentations on a range of subjects, for both internal and external use. Responsible for developing and undertaking research, you will also be using your analytical skills and

play an important role in finding and implementing solutions to corporate problems. You will need sound interpersonal skills and the ability to gain support and commitment from others whilst gathering information. A typing speed of 50wpm and good spreadsheet skills are essential.

For an application form and further information, please send a postcard to the Recruitment Assistant, Circle 33 Housing Trust Ltd, 1-7 Corsica Street, London N3 1JG by no later than 30th June 1997 and quoting reference number POL/COR/304. CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 3rd July 1997.

quality homes, quality services

Circle Thirty Three Housing Trust Ltd

Circle 33 Housing Group is an equal opportunities employer and we therefore welcome applications from all. We will not discriminate on grounds of race, sex, creed or sexual orientation and we particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.

Could you run my W.I. office?

I'm a busy W.I. consultant and need an experienced secretary to do my office work, bookkeeping and run the office when I'm out. Essential WP skills on Apple/MS/Word. Accuracy, good presentation, initiative and independent. Must be able to run the office on own initiative. Class Oxford County. Salary £16,000. C.V. to: Chris Wright, W.I. Underneath Ltd, 22-24 Margaret Street, London W1F 7JL. Tel: 0171 606 2261 Fax: 0171 606 2262

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Commonwealth Institute

A high calibre Personal Assistant is required to provide the Director General with the highest quality administrative support and day to day secretarial services.

Candidates should have a proven track record of working in a high profile public or private sector organisation, first class communication skills, and excellent interpersonal skills, and preferably an interest in the education, the arts and/or Commonwealth issues.

Salary £17,500 plus benefits.

CV's and supporting statement should be sent by 2 July 1997 to the Head of Finance & Personnel, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High St, London W8 6NQ.

Top flight secretary required - up to £16,000

For an exciting, expanding, international hotel group based in Chelsea

You are

- highly proficient with Microsoft 95 and ACT programmes
- confident and efficient on the telephone
- a superb organiser, and team player
- effective day-to-day office administrator
- flexible and committed
- ready for a challenge

Please apply, in confidence, enclosing CV and current salary to:

Mark Foster, 44-46 Mary Walk, London SW3 6GB

SECRETARY TO RUN OFFICE

Bright, enthusiastic

secretary needed to run the office of a young, expanding banking

company based in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for all administrative aspects of running the office. The office is a fast-paced, dynamic environment. Salary £16,000. Please fax CV's to: Kate Morley 0171 607 1874.

0171 607 1874

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY - W1

Excellent Salary

Friendly property investment/development company requires a

Director's Secretary to support the MD and his assistant. This is a

professional, initiative, excellent secretarial skills and computer

skills. Property investment not essential. W/M required.

Please fax CV with covering letter to Caroline

0171 480 5460

ARCHITECTS - WEST LONDON

Partner's Secretary required for a busy international

practice based in Kensington. We are looking for a highly competent secretary,

computer literate particularly in Word 6.0 and Excel, who is well organised and able to work happily in a fast

moving team. A sense of humour would be a great

help too. We offer a salary £17,500, Group Personal Pension

scheme and Medical Insurance. Applicants should reply with full CV to

Sarah Derby, Chapman Taylor Partners, 384 Kensington High Street, London W14 6NS. Fax No. 0171 371 1948.

FARLEY & Co

PA/TEAM SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

An experienced PA/Secretary is required for busy financial

PA/Office administrator to provide a high quality secretarial

and administrative skills. Salary £20,000 p.a. approx.

Pls call Mr CAC

0171 589 1244

PA/Office Administrator

Newly set up and expanding day

to-day business company requires

PA/Office administrator to provide a

high quality secretarial and administrative skills. Salary £15,000 p.a. approx.

Pls call Mr CAC

0171 589 1244

THAMES POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL AND DENTAL EDUCATION

South Thames

Executive Assistant

£19,740 - £24,919 inclusive of London Weighting

TPMDE is the organisation which manages and monitors the

education and training of junior doctors and dentists in London.

A new post has been created to offer high level support to the Dean

Director and the Dean of Postgraduate Medicine.

The successful candidate will have extensive experience of

working to senior managers and of running a busy office. Your

skills should include minute taking and computer literacy. The

office currently uses Windows 95. One of your first tasks will be to

work with others on a communication strategy for the organisation.

In addition to an interesting workload you will supervise the

secretary to the Deanery.

For an application form, job description and person specification

please contact Lisa Small, Human Resources Assistant on 0171 404 2936, or write to Human Resources, TPMDE, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ.

The closing date for applications is: Thursday 10 July 1997.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Handwritten signature: J. P. 10/10/97

£28,000 package

proven commercial acumen will be essential.
Committed to equal opportunities.

0171 814 0800

 **Angela Mortimer**

HODGE

Personnel Secretary

City **c.£18,000 + Bank bns**

A prestigious, highly regarded Merchant Bank is offering a superb future within their Personnel Department, covering a number of divisions totalling 800 staff. Supporting a Senior Personnel Manager with a varied, extremely busy and non-stop workload, you must be a quick thinking professional, able to handle a multitude of tasks. The role involves extensive use of MS Word and Excel, lots of administration and some typing. Ideally, you will have 50+pm and previous personnel experience within a large company environment. Call our City Office.

TEL: 0171 332 0885 FAX: 0171 332 0085

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

This Charming Life....
£22,000 + bonus + BUPA

Are you looking for your next move in the successful field? Got a couple of years behind you and good typing skills (50+ wpm)? This lovely company based in Green Park, are looking for 2-3 to work for three days/going 30 something who will be really appreciate your hard work and organisation of their business lives. It's a busy role with a good mix of structural and admin projects. If you're articulate, straightforward and strict on the phone you'll get a good sense of humour (age 25-35) call us now.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 4JF
Telephone: 0171 734 7343; fax: 0171 734 4342

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

N LONDON/HERTFORDSHIRE
THE GLOBAL THINKING RIGHT HAND!
£22 - 25,000 + Bonus

The London office of this company has already, in a short time, successfully established itself here and abroad. Their MD needs an articulate PA (working on a 1st basis) who is proactive in their attitude to their work. 6-10 years experience a plus. This is a personal

18-21 Jericho Street, St James's, London SW1E 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

Tip Top Reception to \$25,000

This prestigious City based company require a bright and enthusiastic receptionist. Based on the front desk an important part of your job will be creating a

professional first impression to clients. You will answer a busy switchboard and take responsibility for admin projects. Smart presentation and an excellent telephone manner are imperative. Age: 25-45 yrs. It is **ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL** that you have previous reception experience. Please call Kip Felton-Smith on 0171-390 7000 for more details.

**CELEBRATING
20
YEARS**

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

EXECUTIVE PA

EXECUTIVE PA

Circa £25K
(Full Benefits Package)
CENTRAL LONDON LOCATION

A large, rapidly expanding, American Multinational is establishing a London H.Q. and seeks an Executive PA to the Managing Director and Financial Controller. Additional responsibilities will include Personnel and Office administration.

The ideal candidate will be between the ages of 38 and 50, highly motivated with superior computing (MS Office Suite) and organisational skills. Fluency in one other

Funeral and Burial Service in English and
European Language is also preferable.

For the right candidate this is an excellent opportunity to get
in on the ground floor of a lively, rapidly expanding
organisation covering the European, Middle East and
African regions.

Please call Debbie Green for full details

Tel: 0171 598 3223

PRIME **FAX: 0171 574 5454**
SECRETARIAL

Belcourt House, 11 Blomfield St, W2 2M*AN

ARE YOU OUTSTANDING?

£16,000 - £20,000

We are currently looking for top of the range *PA/Secs* to fill a
variety of quality roles. You need to be tenacious, bright with
a professional, proactive approach to your work. All we

require is speeds of 65mip, up to date packages especially
Powerpoint and an AI presentation.

Call Sam or Simone immediately


TEMPS TEMPS TEMPS

We also require top quality PA/Secretaries for urgent
temporary bookings. All you need is a solid secretarial
background, speeds of 60+ wpm, good WP packages
including WAW, Powerpoint & Excel. In return we offer good
rates of pay, cross training and continuous work.

Call Lisa for further details

Tel: 0171 287 0220
portman@portmanrecruitment.co.uk
Portman Recruitment
181 Oxford St
London W1
Fax: 0171 287 1060

PORTMAN
West End 0171 287 0230



COBY PHILIPS
representative of consultants

SH/PA Secretary - £22k

Excellent opportunity to support dynamic MD of International Co. in W.I.
Would suit a well experienced Secret. Secretary looking for a 'care to care' role.
Ability to prioritise 4-5 week to deadline is a must, a good sense of humour is
essential! Min 30000 + WAF. Call for further details

0171 287 6116 or fax your CV to 0171 287 6556.

Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Fax:
0171 782 7586

Crème de la Crème

EXECUTIVE SEARCH £22,000

Fantastic opportunity to join this young, dynamic company as PA to the Group Managing Director. Become involved in the executive search process with lots of client liaison. Suit a highly organised, pro-active individual.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

VICTORIA £23,000

+ Gym membership. You will be based in the superb offices of this international company that really values its staff. You will be encouraged to use your initiative in this true PA role. 80wpm shorthand / 55wpm typing.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WINE MERCHANTS £20,000

An ambitious PA required to assist the Sales Director of this well known wine company. A busy role for an intelligent secretary used to a fast paced environment. French useful. W4W, Excel, 50wpm typing.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WEST END TEMPS

Secretaries and Receptionists
• Top hourly rates, loyalty bonus and paid bank holidays.
• Cross training onto the latest systems.
• Immediate short and long term assignments matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information please telephone Jo, Sophie, Jane & Astrid on 0171 499 8070

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HR GALORE

£15,000 - £20,000

We have several permanent, temp to perm and contract positions working in HR for a leading blue chip company. Previous experience in personnel is essential (min 6 mths). administrators, secretarial and full HR assistant roles available.

Please telephone on 0171 628 9529
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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITY TEMPS

Secretaries and Receptionists
• Top hourly rates, loyalty bonus and paid bank holidays.
• Cross training onto the latest systems.
• Immediate short and long term assignments matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information please telephone Katrina, Alan, Dawn & Harriet on 0171 638 5991

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Fiction Addition £23,000 p.a.

Our client is writing another novel, it is needs an efficient, capable, PA secretary to take down his words. You will need to manage his diary, keep to deadlines & generally support this creative mind. They office is private house, St. 100/200wpm and W4W.

JOYCE GUINNESS
PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Fashion PA

to £20,000 aae

One in a million opportunity to be in at the start of an exciting new venture. New label, launch scheduled for this time next year. Standing up and starting up now! Based minutes from entrance to Holland Park on Kensington High St. Friendly, positive, committed PA to support the Finance Director and also assist with administration of recruitment, induction and training. Proficient in use of Word and ideally PowerPoint. Call Sue Douglas now for more information.

Sue Douglas Recruitment
38A Curzon Street London W1P 7EP
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7923

PA - FMCG

£22,000 + bonus & benefits

Dynamic young thirty-something has just been headhunted to join Headquarters in St. James's Place for the recruitment of executives for the consumer goods industry. There will be an element of international recruitment and the position, to a degree, is autonomous as you will need to be a more than competent first-hand in the frequent absence on business. Good at developing a rapport with clients, candidates and of course colleagues, competent user of Word, Outlook and if possible, PowerPoint too. Call Catherine Rowlands.

Susan Douglas Recruitment
38A Curzon Street London W1P 7EP
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7923

TEMPS TEMPS TEMPS

In between jobs? Temp with Hobstones!

Weekly income at TOP RATES Temp with Hobstones!

Undecided on your career path? Temp with Hobstones!

Want to gain office experience? Temp with Hobstones!

Struggling for your future? Temp with Hobstones!

We have an abundance of assignments - short term, long term and contract! Here are some examples...

8 MONTH MATERNITY LEAVE

Start: 30 June 97 £2,500 pth

Director of European Bank based at Tower Hill requires a secretary with good knowledge of Word for Windows and experience at senior level, ideally within a financial institution. Age 24-35.

6 MONTH CONTRACT

Start: 30 June 97 £3,000 pth

Large Japanese Bank requires experienced team secretary to work for a busy but fun team. You will ideally have Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint. Age 20-30.

To find out about these and more assignments, please call

Lucy, Victoria or Gillian in the City Office

0171 550 7000

RECRUITMENT

Aldrich & Company

HR ADMINISTRATOR

£20-24,000 + BANK BENS

A fabulous opportunity to work in a very professional HR division for a top int'l investment bank. Total support (1-1), taking a proactive approach you will be totally involved; liaising with the line, Head Hunters etc. Dealing with all related admin. A wide role, fun and challenging - requiring 100% energy! Call Emily Aldrich

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

INVESTOR RELATIONS

£20,000 BANK BENS

Admin. Assistant required in a high profile division of a city bank. Constant liaison with investors, traders, management etc. Very strong communication skills essential. Must be confident on Excel & Word. A great opportunity for a self starter - mid 20's with an interest in banking. Call Sarah Turnbull for an immediate interview.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

AMSTERDAM

ENGLISH / JAPANESE

Numerate Bilingual Japanese/English administrator needed to work in the Amsterdam office of a leading investment bank. Assist with bookkeeping, financial products admin. and all areas of company administration. Interviews in London. Great remuneration for immediate mobility. Call Sarah Turnbull.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

PA - MARKETING

£21,000 + BENEFITS

As PA to the Corporate Marketing Director you will provide administrative and secretarial support including your own key projects, PR, Sponsorship and conference organisation. Would suit a highly motivated professional secretary used to IT literate who wants total involvement. Call Alex Gaze

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Our prestigious corporate client, based in the City requires for a minimum of 1 year contract. You will be providing high levels of customer service, and will require 1 year senior level secretarial experience. You will be liaising with the client's senior management and will be responsible for the day to day running of the office. If you are a professional, friendly, well organised and efficient individual, please contact Hazel Neale on 0171 400 0424. E-mail: info@hazelneale.co.uk Web: http://www.hazelneale.co.uk

The company: Financial consultancy offering advice to a wide range of reputable clients.

The role: Key PA role in a professional, friendly environment for Department Head.

The essentials: Fast accurate shorthand min 80, 55wpm typing; W4W 95. Intelligent and efficient.

First rung OF THE ladder
COVENT GARDEN
£14k - 17k
GORDON-YATES
Telephone for recruitment

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4466
CITY Tel: 0171 263 4664 Fax: 0171 263 4664

The company: US Multinational Company, Global perspectives, professional corporate environment.

The role: Full secretarial/PA support including lots of organisation and scheduling, presentations, diaries etc. No fax presentations and no secretarial work on Excel.

The essentials: 2-3 yrs secretarial/PA experience, writing knowledge of Word, Excel & PowerPoint, spoken French. You must be a team player and organised approach to work. Initiative and common sense approach to any task.

global operations
WEST END
£16k - 21k
GORDON-YATES
Telephone for recruitment

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4466
CITY Tel: 0171 263 4664 Fax: 0171 263 4664

The company: West End office of French bank.

The role: To act as a senior PA on a 1:1 basis to the new head of global asset management. Extensive diary management and organisation.

Fantastique!

The essentials: Word, advanced fluent French; highly organised; good solid PA experience in international environments.

£24,000 + benefits - W1
GORDON-YATES
Telephone for recruitment

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4466
CITY Tel: 0171 263 4664 Fax: 0171 263 4664

IMMEDIATE LEGAL ASSIGNMENTS!
£12 per hour

Due to rapid expansion of a well-known, specialist, City-based American law firm, we are looking for legal secretaries for long-term assignments over the next 8 months. 90wpm typing required with WordPerfect 5.1 and ideally Soft Solutions.

Please call Lisa for more information
0171 550 7000
RECRUITMENT

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Working for a prestigious City firm of insurance underwriters providing secretarial support to the Managing Director

There is a high level of client contact and other duties including arranging travel and preparing presentations using an Office Package which includes Excel and Microsoft.

Salary range £16,000-£20,000 depending on age and experience.

To apply telephone the recruitment consultants handling this assignment on 0171-512 1888 (fax 0171-512-0456) or write to Executive Prospects 30 Marsh Wall E14 9PY. Quote reference EPL 7406

Executive Prospects Limited 0171 512 1888

The company: Sports TV distribution company.

The role: Providing full PA support to a senior sales executive.

The essentials: Excellent secretarial skills including shorthand, team focused. 2nd jobber plus, language(s) useful.

sporty type
WIMBLEDON
£17k - 18k
GORDON-YATES
Telephone for recruitment

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4466
CITY Tel: 0171 263 4664 Fax: 0171 263 4664

The company: A pioneer in fresh food products.

The role: Split between Legal & Company Secretarial duties. Supporting 2 people typing correspondence using audio, telephone work and arranging annual events.

The essentials: Calm, precise, efficient, ideally with secretarial qualifications and shorthand. 1 yrs exp. must live locally.

La creme
W12 - White City
Secretary £16k
GORDON-YATES
Telephone for recruitment

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4466
CITY Tel: 0171 263 4664 Fax: 0171 263 4664

The company: Specialise in all aspects of 'big ticket' lease financing.

The role: General office duties - admin/secretarial assistance, assist waitress/reception as required.

The essentials: Bright, willing, reliable and cheerful, good telephone manner for relief switchboard duties and meet appearance for meeting and greeting.

YOUR starter ten
Office Junior - £10k
GORDON-YATES
Telephone for recruitment

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4466
CITY Tel: 0171 263 4664 Fax: 0171 263 4664

TEMPS needed NOW!

We urgently require high quality secretaries. In return we pay top rates and offer exciting long and short term assignments in both Corporate and Media companies.

Please call Julie Cross on: 0171 828 2727

WORKING WONDERS RECRUITMENT LTD

29-31 VILLIERS STREET, LONDON WC2
TELEPHONE 0171 930 9080 FAX 0171 839 0815
TEMP CENTRE FAX 0171 930 7788

Personnel Admin Jewellers W1

This vacancy is to provide full administrative support to the Personnel Manager. Duties include referencing, dealing with starters and leavers and also holiday and sickness. Must have previous Personnel. Salary £19,500 STL & Pension G75.

Secretary Investments W1

A secretary with shorthand of 100 wpm is required for this well known company. Duties include typing of correspondence, travel arrangements, diary management and lots more. The ideal candidate would be very well spoken and well presented. Salary £20,000 STL & Pension S209.

PA Marketing SW18

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RACING: CECIL LAVISHES HIGH PRAISE ON HIS BRILLIANT WINNER OF PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES

Bosra Sham in a class of her own

By CHRIS McGRATH

AT A meeting so floridly devoted to the way things look, Bosra Sham yesterday reminded the Royal Ascot that true class comes from within. The filly put up one of the great modern Ascot performances when routing her rivals for the Prince of Wales's Stakes by eight lengths and more.

Henry Cecil found himself describing Bosra Sham as the best horse he has ever trained. Though delivered in that determinedly casual drawl, it was a remarkable tribute given that Cecil has trained



Bosra Sham storms to an eight-length success in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot yesterday

ROYAL ASCOT

the winners of 19 classics, and this was his first success at the royal meeting.

Kieren Fallon produced Bosra Sham two furlongs out and, for a strange moment, time stood still for everyone else. The other five horses seemed to quiver as the odds-on favourite suddenly stretched several lengths clear; even when you realised Alhaarth was still galloping, she was going further away.

"She is remarkable," Cecil said. "She has guts, she is a natural athlete, I think she is a true champion — and I think the public have decided that, too. She is the best horse I

have ever trained. I hate saying it, because so many good horses have been such friends to me over the years. I never like judging them. But she is something else. Let's try to appreciate her, because we might not get another one like this for some time."

There is little danger of

Fallon, his smiling new stable jockey, failing to appreciate Bosra Sham, ridden last season by the studiously brief Pat Eddery. Fallon is optimistic that she would stay a mile and a half, but she will stay at ten furlongs for her next race, in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes on July 5. Cecil and Waide Said,

her owner, will then consider whether to step her up for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, back at Ascot, or drop down to a mile for the Sussex Stakes.

Those daring to take on Bosra Sham at Sandown may include Starborough, given a fine ride by Frankie Dettori to

win the St James's Palace Stakes. Desert King and Daylami, respective winners of the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the French equivalent, could not muster the pace to challenge as Starborough seized an early lead and quickened off the turn to hold Air Express by a length.

Starborough was fourth in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, but looked a better colt yesterday. The Newmarket-based David Loder, who trains him for Sheikh Mohammed, explained: "I always felt that he would be better going round a bend — it is a hell of a long way in a straight line at Newmarket — and anyway he has improved 7lb to 10lb since."

Loder had been keen to run Starborough in France this weekend, but the owner changed his mind for him. The Sheikh must have considered it a good day's work, all told, as the Queen Anne Stakes had earlier fallen to Allied Forces, also ridden by Dettori — reviving the Godolphin cause after a season of unfamiliar disappointment.

But Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, was under no illusions. "We know we are not in contention for the championship this time, so we are going to move out a lot of the second XI older horses and concentrate on working with the younger horses towards next season. We have a nucleus of 75 two-year-olds, and 20 or 30 older horses will make way for some of them."

Aidan O'Brien, out of luck with Desert King, only had to wait another half-hour before saddling his first Flat winner in Britain, Harbour Master, getting up to win the Coventry Stakes. Many expect this remarkable young Irishman one day to rival Cecil's achievements. He will be lucky, however, to train another Bosra Sham.

The dapper Cecil loves the fiery of Ascot, but he will have returned last night to his prize roses at Warren Place, and reflected that you can't improve on nature.

Balding gives fresh view of Royal Ascot

Jenny MacArthur trails a television presenter with a mission to entertain

It was not the start to Royal Ascot that Balding had hoped for as she watched Hidden Meadow, trained and bred by her father Ian, trail in tenth in the opening Queen Anne Stakes yesterday. Although far too professional to betray her emotions on air, Balding, a pivotal figure in the BBC's revitalised Ascot coverage this week, admitted to a sharp sense of disappointment. "My father takes his racing so hard."

A win would have been a timely filly as Balding, 26, embarked on the four most gruelling days of her career. A former president of the Cambridge Union and champion amateur rider in 1988 and 1989 — she began broadcasting four years ago, reading the racing bulletins on the old Radio Five.

This week, in a move aimed at widening the appeal of the BBC's racing coverage, she introduces the afternoon programme, alongside Julian Wilson, presents the evening highlights — and fronts the new daily *First Show* with Jim McGrath.

Her frenetic day started at 7.30am at the hotel in Bracknell where the BBC team is staying. A quick read of the papers was followed by telephone calls to trainers for last minute information. With two uncles as trainers, Toby Balding and Lord Huntingdon, as well as her father, she admits her connections are a huge advantage.

Even so, there is an impressive amount of research to be done before each day's racing. "About 80 per cent of the homework I do won't be needed," she said, "but you've got to do it just in case."

By 9am she is at the racecourse, sporting trousers and blazer — in tune with the relaxed image of *First*

Show. Criticisms of the BBC's "staid and formal" presentation of racing in a poll, conducted by *The Sporting Life* six months ago, have struck home. *First Show*, designed to whet viewers' appetites for the day's events, is an integral part of the BBC's new approach. For Balding, who spent an hour rehearsing for the 11.35 start, it is a chance to put forward her own ideas.

"My crusade is to try to humanise racing, to show that these people are not just trainers in flat caps — they are real people with homes, children and all the usual worries. I want people to watch racing and love it."

To set the mood yesterday, the star guest was John Gosden, the Derby-winning trainer who gave the timely tip of Starborough for the St James's Palace Stakes, with Lynda Berry giving her views on fashion — lilac is the in colour. Balding moved between guests with ease.

Off air at midday, she went straight into a meeting about the afternoon programme. Then it was a dash to the lady jockeys' changing room to change into her "gear" before more rehearsing. While the *beau monde* flaunts its more conspicuous fashions Balding aims, for practicality, "I want people to judge me for what I say not what I wear."

It is said with feeling. At Ascot two years ago — wearing a fine, feathered creation — she read the next morning of the "dead crow" which appeared to have fallen on Cecil Balding's head.

Emerging in black and cream she moves straight into rehearsals. By 1.45 she is on air. The next 2½ hours are a whirl of links, interviews and comments. Balding's chatty, direct style contrasting with Wilson's more studied manner and Sir Peter O'Sullivan's modulated tones.

Even when live transmission stops — after the fourth race — there is no respite. Links for the highlights have to be recorded. It is only when these are in the can that she can relax. She heads off for a party in the car park given by the trainer, Charlie Brooks. Then it is off to her father's for dinner. "I don't think I made a blunder, but my father will find something to say. After Goodwood he said I bobbed my head too much."



Balding: chatty

Tayseer ready to maintain Dunlop's momentum

2.30: Nightbird is arguably the form choice judged on her success from Elegant Warning at Newmarket but, significantly, Frankie Dettori has opted to ride stablemate Kahal, unraced this term but highly regarded when with Ed Dunlop last year. The in-form Dunlop runs Tayseer, who gets the vote. He beat Fly To The Stars (who landed the Britannia yesterday) at Redcar last season and came from near last to win a competitive York handicap this term. Among Men has won both his starts and is progressive, along with Meshed, but the main danger is Shaheen, who appreciated the step back to seven furlongs when winning at Kempton 18 days ago.

3.05: The trio to concentrate on are Ascot Cyclone, Daunting Lady and Heeremundi. Ascot Cyclone won a fast-run Bath maiden impressively, the form of which was boosted by the

recent victory of the runner-up. Daunting Lady has won both her starts and the form of her latest success at Chester has worked out. However, after the success of Harbour Master yesterday, Heeremundi can provide Aidan O'Brien with another Ascot success. The winner of a Fairyhouse maiden by six lengths, she was even more impressive when taking a listed event at Leopardstown earlier this month.

3.45: Sleepytime is the clear form choice, having beaten Ocean Ridge (fifth), Khassah (eighth), Moonlight Paradise (tenth) and Rebecca Sharp (13th) in the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket. Classic Park, beaten twice in England last season, caused a surprise when winning the Irish 1,000 Guineas at 20-1 and, although she has undoubtedly improved, the Curragh form looks slightly suspect. The only doubt is whether there will be a

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sufficiently strong pace to bring the favourite's stamina into play.

4.20: Most of the pace is on the far side, with horses such as Sky Dome, Lonely Leader and Afterxerxes likely to blaze the trail. That should help Gold Spats, who won with something in hand at Goodwood last month, and Crown Court, who has been laid out for this. Both would prefer some ease in the ground, and Yalta looks a

bigger danger from those drawn high. However, it may be worth taking a risk with Dancing Image, drawn three, as Harbour Master showed yesterday there is a faster strip of ground near the stands' rail. The Queen's runner ran a cracker over seven furlongs behind Gadge on his debut at Goodwood. Mawingo and Bold Words are others to consider.

4.55: Shil-Take ran respectably in the 2,000 Guineas before finishing third to Grapeshot at Goodwood but is not certain to appreciate this extended trip. In contrast, Sausalito Bay can be expected to improve over this trip. However, the two runners that interest me most are Winter Garden and Public Purse. Winter Garden showed his best form when just beaten in a competitive handicap at Newbury before winning easily at Salisbury. The Old Vic colt would

appreciate some rain. Public Purse, trained by André Fabre, impressed deeply when winning a newcomers' event at Saint-Cloud and is a confident choice.

5.30: Whitechapel is no backnumber despite being a nine-year-old, as he showed when winning at Newbury on his seasonal reappearance last month. He is still well handicapped and likes this track but needs easier ground. Luca Cumani and his jockey were fined under the "non-triers" rule after Zaralaska put up an eye-catching performance at York last month. He should be thereabouts but I am keen on Wadhwa Sands, who was ridden with an eye to the future when finishing fifth behind Give Me A Ring at York five weeks ago. Docklands Limo is well handicapped and rates as the best outsider.

RICHARD EVANS

ROYAL ASCOT

2.30 Among Men 4.20 BOLD WORDS (nap)
3.05 Heeremundi 4.55 Winter Garden
3.45 Sleepytime 5.30 Humourless

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 DAUNTING LADY.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.45 Sleepytime, 4.20 Gold Spats, 5.30 OOPS PETTIE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)
DRAW: 5F-1M STR. LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 JERSEY STAKES (Group III: 3-Y-O, £24,700, 7f) (22 runners)

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CRICKET

England aiming to lift World Cup to new dimension

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CRICKET has travelled a vast distance, often across uncomfatable terrain, since England staged the first World Cup in 1975. Quite how far became plain at Lord's yesterday, where Disney World was unveiled as a future venue for international cricket and the 1999 World Cup was launched to a background of strident rock music in the Long Room.

One could almost imagine eye-rows being raised on the portraits adorning the noble venue as the sacrilege took place below. They would be raised still further over the figure of £40 million, a conservative forecast of revenue from the event before a single ticket is sold.

Money and evangelical zeal are behind the Disney project. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has agreed to help to establish a stadium in Orlando, Florida, with a view to staging triangular one-day series, the first in the autumn of 1998.

That was one clear development to emerge from an ICC meeting that agreed on a new corporate structure to aid swift

decision-taking, but then delayed a verdict on a Test match world championship. There is goodwill behind the idea, though, and a high-powered sub-committee has been asked to report back by December.

That committee will also consider — and hopefully reject — the proposal to stage the World Cup every two years rather than every four. Any doubt that this would diminish the event was dispelled yesterday when ambitious plans for the 1999 tournament, still two years distant, were revealed.

The presentation was a slick, modern affair. Pre-empting a later remark by David Richards, the chief executive of the ICC, that "other sports are overtaking us at a rate of knots", it acknowledged the need for cricket to compete for the corporate dollar and for the young sporting audience. It also, reassuringly, addressed various areas in which the last World Cup fell short.

The 1999 tournament will begin, as it should, with a

match between hosts and holders. England, abysmal failures in 1996, will play Sri Lanka, the unexpected champions at Lord's. This compares favourably with a bizarre choice of opening match, between England and New Zealand, at Ahmedabad last February.

Two groups of six will operate on a round-robin system and the top three from each will proceed to a second round, from which the semi-finalists will emerge. This, too, is an improvement on the previous format.

Each of the 12 competing countries will be hosted by a county club during a fortnight of preparation. An itinerary of warm-up games, three per country, has already been finalised. Scotland will be hosted close to home, in Durham, before travelling to Worcester for their opening game, against Australia.

There will be no title sponsor for the tournament. Instead, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the organiser, is negotiating with "global partners" — eight companies each expected to put in around £2 million. The first two, Vodafone and NatWest bank, were named yesterday.

The kitty will be topped up by official suppliers, with tournament merchandise ranging from computer games to replica kit, and hospitality packages. There are logos, mascots and a catchphrase — "It's not just cricket".

The last World Cup produced £12 million through television and England expect to do better. The challenge of those doing the deals, however, is to maximise their negotiating power while observing an undertaking that important national events will be widely available. The final, scheduled for Sunday, June 20, at Lord's, will be shared between satellite and terrestrial television, but other matches, including the semi-finals at Old Trafford and Edgbaston, will be sold exclusively.

Hick stranded at the crease

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

CAST your mind back a year to the Lord's Test and what comes up? It may be the first day hundred by Inzamam-ul-Haq, the absurd dismissal of Ijaz Ahmed, bowled as he attempted to do the Gay Gordons, the defiance of Atherton and Stewart on the last day, or, more likely, the surrender to Mushtaq Ahmed that followed their departure.

It seems longer ago than it actually was, so different is the mood of the side today. Only Atherton, Stewart, Thorpe and Ealham remain from that XI, which goes to show how much England have reshaped their team in the past year.

Of the seven players who do not remain, there is no doubt who has fallen farthest. In time, the Test may be recalled as Graeme Hick's last for England. Yesterday, as the players gathered at Lord's, Hick was preparing to play for Worcestershire. Nothing is certain in life, wrote Benjamin Franklin, except death and taxes, but Hick's position as an international cricketer looks ever more remote.

The last time he appeared in these columns, the piece was disintegrated in a cricket magazine under the misleading headline: Flash back Hick — the only correct thing about it being "Hick". So let it be clear at the outset I bear the man no malice. It is just that he was given more chances than any batsman to justify his place in the team — and, what is more, he justly nearly did.

After he made a hundred at Pretoria in November 1995, which followed a century against West Indies at Not-



Hick contemplates his future and an international career clouded in uncertainty

tingham the previous summer (and, better still, a brilliant 67 to help to swing the memorable Lord's Test), Hick seemed to have overcome his fear of heights. It was then that he looked down, and his head went all woozy. You do not ask people like that to make the climb again.

What we see now is a batsman who, at the apparent zenith of his powers with his ambition scarcely diminished, is regressing. True, he made a century at Bristol last Saturday, but he is clearly not the player he used to be and, so long as Stewart and Thorpe, Hussain and Crawley get on with it, there can be no way back.

The winter off was supposed to have refreshed him. He said little about his plans, but David Houghton, the coach at Worcestershire and an old friend from Zimbabwe, could not keep quiet for more than a few days without

telling the world that his man was ready to fill his boots. Last weekend, after the Bristol hundred, there was a volte-face. Hick had begun the season poorly, said Houghton, because there was a lot of talk about how many runs he was going to make.

It is no good saying that Hick is only 31 and that his best years lie ahead. His best years were in his early twenties, before he had been exposed to the psychological rigours of Test cricket. He has been dropped five times by England since his debut in 1991, and has never recaptured the freedom that he enjoyed in those innocent, early days beside the Severn.

Graham Gooch gave Hick some encouraging advice earlier this year, saying that his own best years came after the age of 30. He may as well have compared bread with cheese. Gooch, different to Hick in every respect, is a

driven man, and, coming up to 44, he continues to drive himself. Not all careers, it should be stressed, develop at the same pace.

Hick, who comes across as a decent chap, will continue to plunder runs for Worcestershire, but those flaws of temperament, more than any perceived technical shortcomings, will always count against him. All the evidence that could possibly be needed to make a judgment is there. In fact, it was there long ago, as Atherton, who defended him for so long, might now admit (at a chance).

One reliable measure of a cricketer's worth is how he responds to failure. If anybody doubts how strong a man, and how good a cricketer, Atherton is, as he goes past Peter May's record of 41 caps as captain, then consider why Hick is not there to salute him. As somebody or other once said, the readiness is all.

Patel puts match practice to good use

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

THE PARKS (final day of three): Oxford University drew with Nottinghamshire

IF Nottinghamshire seriously planned to beat Oxford University for the first time in eight years, rather than opting for match practice, their tactical aberration was batting on for 50 minutes in the morning. It enabled Tim Robinson, back after a month's absence with a broken hand, to complete a three-hour half-century, but the extension of the innings was counterproductive.

Ultimately, Oxford were challenged to make 367 to win in four hours plus 20 overs — 83 runs more than their previous highest total this summer. They took the bold route to an honourable draw, with half-centuries from James Fulton and Chetan Patel after three wickets had tumbled in 12 balls in mid-afternoon.

When Nottinghamshire abandoned their hopes of victory with nine overs still available, Patel had hit eight fours, reached his third fifty of the summer, raised his run aggregate to 300 at an average of almost 33 and justified Hampshire's faith in offering him a summer contract after the forthcoming University match. Fulton also excelled, frustrating the spin bowlers before being caught off bat and paid to provide one of James Hindson's four wickets for 97.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 324 for 4 (Patel 115, Fulton 78, G.F. Archer 50 not out)

Second Innings
M.P. Downman b Patel 13
R.T. Robinson not out 61
N.A. Gie b Byrnes b Archer 50
S.P. Archer c Wright b Patel 1
R.T. Bates c Smith b Archer 4
J.E. Hindson not out 6
Bones (b 4, b 3, w 6, no 8) 41
Total (4 wickets) 188
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-138, 3-140, 4-147

BOWLING: Archer 15-2-44-2; Patel 17-3-85-2; Bates 5-0-15-0; Byrnes 5-1-20-0; Wright 4-1-12-0
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 124 (J. Hindson 4 for 38)

Second Innings
N.P. Gie b Patel 0
B.W. Byrnes b Hindson 0
M.A. Wright b Hindson 34
S.P. Archer b Hindson 17
P.G. Morgan b Patel 0
J.A.G. Fulton c Gie b Hindson 51
R.D. Hindson not out 48
C. Patel not out 41
Bones (b 7, b 3, no 2) 12
Total (4 wickets) 188
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-32, 3-82, 4-82, 5-83, 6-181

BOWLING: Patel 11-2-24-1; Pick 8-2-24-2; Archer 3-0-15-0; Bates 3-0-14-1; Hindson 34-57-4
Umpires: K.E. Palmer and P. Wiley

WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

Group A: England, India, Kenya, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Group B: Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, West Indies.

First round
May 14: England v Sri Lanka (at Lord's), Zimbabwe v Kenya (at Taunton), Sri Lanka v South Africa (at Nottingham), India v Zimbabwe (at Leicester)
May 15: Australia v Bangladesh (at Chelmsford)
May 16: England v Kenya (at Canterbury), Sri Lanka v South Africa (at Nottingham), India v Zimbabwe (at Leicester)
May 17: New Zealand v Bangladesh (at Chelmsford)
May 18: England v Kenya (at Canterbury), Sri Lanka v South Africa (at Nottingham), India v Zimbabwe (at Leicester)
May 19: Australia v Bangladesh (at Chelmsford)
May 20: England v South Africa (at Old Trafford), Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe (at Worcester)
May 21: West Indies v Bangladesh (at Edgbaston)
May 22: England v South Africa (at Old Trafford), Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe (at Worcester)
May 23: Kenya v India (at Bristol), Australia v Pakistan (at Headingley)
May 24: West Indies v New Zealand (at Southampton), Scotland v Bangladesh (at Edgbaston)
May 25: England v Zimbabwe (at Trent Bridge)
May 26: Sri Lanka v India (at Taunton), South Africa v Kenya (at Amersham)
May 27: West Indies v Scotland (at Leamington), Australia v Bangladesh (at Chester-le-Street)
May 28: New Zealand v Pakistan (at Derby)

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Annual General Meeting of SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society ("the Society") will be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow on 27 June 1997 at 12 noon (or as soon thereafter as the Special General Meeting convened for 11.00 a.m. on the same date and at the same place is concluded or adjourned) for the following purposes:

- to consider the Report and Accounts for 1996 together with the Directors' and Auditors' Reports thereon;
- to reappoint the following directors who retire by rotation:
 - (As Resolution 1) P. L. A. Jamieson; and
 - (As Resolution 2) I. A. Spence;
- (As Resolution 3) to reappoint Ernst & Young as auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration; and
- (As Resolution 4) to approve the remuneration to be paid to the directors.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
James C. Mitchell
Secretary

Principal Office:

P.O. Box 25, Craigforth

Stirling FK9 4UE

NOTES:

- Any member entitled to vote at meetings of the Society (a "Voting Member") is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a member of the Society) as his proxy, to attend the Annual General Meeting and vote instead of him. A proxy who is not himself a Voting Member is not entitled to speak at the Annual General Meeting except to demand or join in demanding a poll.
- Forms of proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which they are signed, or a notationally certified copy of such power or authority, should be deposited at the principal office of the Society, Craigforth, Stirling FK9 4UE not later than 12.00 noon on 25 June 1997. The lodging of a form of proxy will not prevent a Voting Member from voting in person at the Annual General Meeting, if he or she wishes to do so.
- It is important that Voting Members intending to vote personally bring with them to the Annual General Meeting the letter accompanying their form of proxy or, failing that, details of their proxy (numbered) and same means of identification. Holders of proxies should bring with them to the Annual General Meeting details of the proxy number in respect of which they have been appointed proxy and same means of identification. On arrival at the Annual General Meeting, please register with the officials who will be at the door. Registration will commence at 10.00 a.m.

Scottish Amicable

Legal Notices also appear on pages 21 & 26

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
RE: THE ESTATE OF THE LATE
MICHAEL HENDERSON
DECEASED
NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, dated 12 June 1997, confirming the appointment of the undersigned as executor of the will of the late Michael Henderson, deceased, and the appointment of the undersigned as executor of the will of the late Michael Henderson, deceased, is hereby confirmed.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, dated 12 June 1997, confirming the appointment of the undersigned as executor of the will of the late Michael Henderson, deceased, and the appointment of the undersigned as executor of the will of the late Michael Henderson, deceased, is hereby confirmed.

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Bradman captured on canvas

SIR Donald Bradman has decreed how he would wish to be remembered in art form. Colin Dudley, an Englishman, was commissioned to depict the greatest of all batsmen in oils and his work, which will be unveiled at Lord's during the second Test match, will be displayed at cricket clubs throughout the world if not privately purchased. It is priced at £500,000.

Bradman's Walk to Glory captures The Don going out to bat at Melbourne in 1937. In addition to the original, which will be unveiled by Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the president of MCC, 99 framed limited edition prints are available for sale at £9,000 apiece. All proceeds will go to charity: the Bradman Museum Trust and the Wheelchair



Dudley's painting showing Bradman going out to bat

Sports Association. Bradman, who will be 89 in August, said: "My objective has been to ensure the accuracy, quality and authenticity of this portrait, which will enable it to stand as an important facet of cricketing history from an artistic perspective. It was initiated as a reflection of my very high regard for the commitment and sporting skills of wheelchair athletes. Their focus on success is inspirational."

The England and Australia teams will be present at the unveiling. The prints, measuring 5ft x 4ft, can be obtained from Hammond Communications, 31 Welbeck Street, London, W1M 7BG (fax to: 0171-435 5397).

Reunion

President Mandela, of South Africa, has an important cricketing engagement this October. He will be reunited with Devon Malcolm, his favourite cricketer, who will be undertaking a ten-day visit to the Republic. Malcolm will be running coaching clinics and leading an International XI against a team drawn from the townships.

Malcolm has invited Allan Lamb, an erstwhile England colleague, and hopes to include two Kenyans in his party. "It is to repay the president for his patronage of Devon's benefit," Naynash Desai, Malcolm's solicitor, said. "This is not a fund-



raising trip and it will go ahead even if we are unable to obtain sponsorship. The England and Wales Cricket Board has given its blessing and will consider releasing any players whom it might have on contract."

Toasting Denis

Denis Compton, whose love of a bar was such that he was known to serve the drinks himself, would have appreciated the wakes being planned to follow his memorial service at Westminster Abbey on July 1. Various luminaries are expected at the Cricketers Club and members of the Saints and Sinners Club will be taking over the top floor of Langan's Brasserie.

Richard Shepherd, the celebrated chef, is among the number, as is Ingleby-Mackenzie, one of Compton's greatest friends. Addresses at the abbey are to be given by J.J. Warr, E.W. Swanton and Compton's son, Patrick.

On the Net

Anton Mosimann, another eminent chef, will be presiding over the fourth anniversary celebrations of Test Match Special at his eponymous club tomorrow evening. Peter Baxter, the producer of the programme, said: "I am more confident of our future than for some time."

Jonathan Agnew, who helped to launch Lord's on to the Internet last week, said that Test Match Special would follow suit shortly, assuming that the rights to do so could be obtained. Thus, theoretically, it will be possible to pick up Blowers and Aggers anywhere in the world.

Agnew himself gave out his own web site during the first Test and was inundated with messages. "I told him he was off his trolley," Baxter said.

Captain's diary

Mike Atherton, like Malcolm, has a busy diary for the autumn. As well as Lay and Wheeler, the wine merchants, taking his England XI to Epernay to play France at boules, he will be undertaking speaking engagements with Ian Botham in the Far East. Both trips are a part of his benefit year and, as a form of fund-raising, appeal to him more than bucket collections at Old Trafford.

FATHER TIMES

Headley in line for Kent recall

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DEAN HEADLEY, the Kent fast bowler, is expected to play his first county championship game for a month when Kent meet Durham at Darlington today.

Headley has been troubled by a back strain that forced him out of England reckoning after the first Texaco Trophy one-day international against Australia.

Nottinghamshire recall Tim Robinson and Paul Pollard, their experienced openers, for the match against Yorkshire at Trent Bridge. Robinson, the former England player, has made a rapid recovery from a

broken bone in his right hand and completed an unbeaten half-century in the match against Oxford University yesterday. Pollard also made his comeback in that game after a broken finger.

Matthew Keesch, a batsman and Stuart Milburn, a fast bowler, are pushing for recalls after being added to Hampshire's squad for the match against Northamptonshire at Northampton. The Northamptonshire attack will be without Mohammad Akram, David Pollitt and David Capel, who are suffering from a variety of ailments.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

PACKETEER

(b) A Canadian word for a carrier (often an Indian) of letters and documents, especially in the fur trade. Obsolete, except in historical contexts.

RUPIAH

(a) The basic monetary unit of Indonesia, equal to 100 sen. Indonesian from the Hindi *rupya*.

PIANO NOBILE

(c) The main story of a large house, usually on the first floor, of lofty structure, and containing the principal apartments. The Italian for the "noble floor". "The whole piano nobile, with beautiful Adam rooms, marble chimney pieces and painted ceilings, was completely unnecessary."

ORTANIQUE

(d) A citrus fruit resembling a slightly flattened orange, produced by crossing an orange and a tangerine and cultivated in the West Indies. A portmanteau word made up from orange + tangerine. "I've got to risk turning fifty acres of certain sugar into avocados, ortaniques and Bombay mangoes."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qa7: Qa5 (Black must maintain the protection of the d8-rook); 2. Qm4: Qc7; 3. Qa7 and Black has no good reply.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

Patel puts match practice to good use

Gray ponders return to sport's firing line

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

I JUST don't understand what's going on out there... words that are part of the English sporting lore, words of Fred Trueman once again slugging off a young English cricketer who is playing for his life and his future.

And Bob Willis now knows he can never be a fast bowler. This was the line that prompted me to launch the concept of the Truemanism in my Saturday column — a Truemanism being a statement that is instantly contradicted by actual events. Willis, as I remember, went on to take five wickets in the session.

The joys of uninhibited, reckless criticism run very deep and so do the pleasures of praising one's own youth. Sport being so huge an industry now, any former player with a *pomme frite* on his shoulder can reach a decent audience (and often make a few quid) by slagging off present players.

Thus we have Fred Titmus having a pop at Michael Atherton, who sets a record tomorrow for Test matches as England captain. Useless, Titmus says, when compared with the man he beats, Peter May.

Then we have Geoffrey Boycott, who called Dominic Cork "a show-pony and a prima donna with an attitude problem". This hurt, mainly because it is not without all truth. Cork's groin strain is a problem, but the thing that the poor boy has never recovered from is achieving a hat-trick in a Test match.

The former player turned media celebrity has become part of the sporting industry, in every sport. You would never get Brian Johnston and John Arlott leading Test Match Special these days.

The big jobs go to former players, poachers desperate for the few well-paid gamekeeper's jobs. This has long been a tradition in cricket; now it has become part of football as well. Your past sporting record grants you the right to speak loudly and glibly on — well, almost anything. There is a nice story in Simon Hughes's book, *A Load of Hard Yakk*, in which Hughes corrects Ian Botham's pronunciation of an Italian cheese. Botham, enraged, rounds on Hughes: "How many Test wickets did you take?"

You cannot argue with facts like that, you see. There is nothing like retirement from sport to make people forget their own fears, anxieties, failures. Being a professional athlete is a brutal business. Being a professional commentator is a great deal easier.

Andy Gray had a famous set-to with Ron Atkinson, then boss of Coventry City, when he accused his

team of lacking fight. A former player with a high-profile media job, such as Gray, such as Boycott, is in a position to enjoy one of the greatest luxuries in life — power without responsibility.

Most players are content to set aside the life of strife when the time comes. A talent for communicating your game is not to be sneezed at. It is a pleasant life, demanding enough not to be dull, but you know that neither a row of noughts nor a torn ligament can ever tear your life asunder again.

Which leads us to the extraordinary phenomenon of Gray, reportedly on the edge of accepting the job of Everton manager. Surely nobody in his senses would leave a job as Sky Sports' top football man in exchange for the windswept wilderness of football management.

Already people are queuing up to say that Gray must be mad. Stark staring bonkers, even to think of it. These people have not been professional athletes, or even members of the legion of former pros. They are not people in whom the love of strife burns extra deep.

There is a sense in which the artist will always a little despise the critic, no matter how good; a sense in which the critic will always envy the artist, no matter how poor. For the artist, no matter how poor, is said and done, a critic is a sunfish in the harbor.

Those who preach to Gray of the joys of a gelding's life of ease have a point, but Gray may yet reject the chance of lying forever by the still waters of television and get up the sharp end once again. If he does so, I salute him. He'd be mad to do it. A rather cheering kind of madness, on the whole.

Chicago benefits from wind of change

Keith Blackmore sees two of baseball's oldest clubs battle for local supremacy after a hiatus of 91 years

The rain that fell on the Chicago Bulls basketball team's victory parade in Grant Park on Monday stopped just in time to allow the first competitive meeting of this city's baseball clubs for more than 90 years to go ahead. The change of weather could hardly have been more symbolic.

Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox have grown used to working in the giant shadows cast by Michael Jordan and his team, and the Bulls' latest celebrations, for their fifth National Basketball Association championship in seven years, seemed perfectly timed to obscure the most important baseball game in the city since 1906.

Success and the Chicago clubs have become strangers long since their last meeting, when the "hulless wonders" of the White Sox beat the Cubs 4-2 in the World Series. They have also become strangers to each other.

For two of the oldest teams in the sport, that short six-game series was the sum of their meaningful competition. The Cubs were founder members of the National League, the Sox among the crossroads of the American League. The peculiarities of the Major League system have always meant that teams from the different organisations could meet only by winning their own league and then representing it in the annual World Series.

In 1908, the Cubs actually won the Series, but it was the last time. They have been back since, most recently in 1945, but have never won and the club has become an



Foster, of the Cubs, prepares to pitch during the first inning of the historic game between the two Chicago clubs on Monday

affectionate metaphor for futile endeavour in American sport.

The White Sox won the Series again in 1917 and reached it once more in 1919, but then came the defining moment of the club's history. They lost to Cincinnati and subsequently eight of their players, including the legendary Shoeless Joe Jackson, were banned for life for allegedly fixing the result. A jury failed to convict any of the

"Black Sox", as they became known, but the club has never won the Series since.

Thanks to these long histories of failure, the cross-city rivalry, had been limited to exhibition games until Monday afternoon, when baseball's latest great experiment, inter-league play, came into force. The prospect of a real game, with local bragging rights at issue, piqued the interest of supporters.

That opportunity attracted more than 30,000 people to Comiskey Park, home of the White Sox, for the first of three games. This was a real "subway series"; the respective homes of the two teams are separated only by a dozen stops on the Red Line of the Chicago Transit Authority.

For those Chicagoans who stared out on to the field and thought that they must be dreaming, there was another special effect. The Cubs were wearing the elegant, all-dark blue uniforms of their 1911 predecessors. The White Sox were in the simple white outfits of the 1917 World Series winners.

This time, the Cubs won 8-3, in a game filled with fielding heroics and free of errors. They took a big lead early, pummeling Jaime Navarro, the White Sox pitcher, for six runs in the first three innings, then hung on as the White Sox tried to claw their way back.

For Mark Grace, the Cubs first baseman, whose excellent personal contributions over the past nine years have not been matched by the performance of his team, it was a strange feeling. "We have all been saying it was just another game, but it wasn't," he said. "The fans made it much more exciting. I didn't think we would ever see it and I am proud to have taken part."

The crowd, in fact, may have been the biggest bonus. Early indications are that the inter-league experiment — in which every team plays 15 games against local rivals in the other league, the results to count in their respective divisional tables — has been a success. Attendances for the first games over the weekend were up almost 40 per cent on last year and that figure was likely to increase when the big attractions, such as the New York Yankees and Mets, had been taken into account.

IN BRIEF

World's top two give Evian class if not size

THE Evian Masters, which starts today at the Royal Club, Evian, overlooking Lake Geneva, is a golf event with limitations — a mere 66 competitors and no cut — but limitless class, not least because two of those competing are Annika Sorenstam and Laura Davies, the world's leading women players.

Sorenstam, now No. 1, is making her first appearance in Europe this season, having won four times in the United States. She leads the money-list with nearly \$700,000 (£420,000). Last week she spent a few days at home in Sweden working with her coach and said: "He was a bit picky." Such attention to detail suits the meticulous Sorenstam, whereas it would drive Davies, the personification of *laissez faire*, to distraction. Davies, the world No. 2, has also had a week at home, having won the Danish Open earlier this month, and likes this venue, having won the title in 1995 and 1996.

Motor sport: Emmanuel Collard, of France, will drive for the Prost Formula One team during testing at Magny-Cours this week, heightening speculation that he will replace Olivier Panis, who suffered multiple fractures of his legs in a 150mph crash at the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal on Sunday. Collard, a former test driver for Williams, Benetton and Tyrrell, has been linked with a future role at the Prost team since the start of the season. Panis is not expected to race again this season.

Squash: A place in the final of the Al Ahram international championship, near Cairo, was the immediate reward for Peter Nicol, of Scotland, after he defeated Ahmed Barada, the local favourite, 14-15, 15-12, 15-13. Nicol, 24, set up a meeting with Jansher Khan, the world champion and No. 1 seed, who will have been entertained by the calm and skilful manner in which he contained Barada, 19, one of the most rambunctious players to emerge on the international scene in recent years.

Rowing: The Amateur Rowing Association Council yesterday expressed reservations about recent recommendations by Fisa, the sports international governing body, including the deletion of the "amateur rule" from international rowing, possibly from next September.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	Totini (A. Luckhurst)	10118
2	Alci (A. Luckhurst)	9275
3	Four Ian Bothams (P. Johnson)	9037
4	Low And Go H A P (N. Jones)	8907
5	14 (J. J. P. Johnson)	8739
6	All Round Ability (W. Barnes)	8736
7	David's Dependables (D. Tait)	8735
8	Cardiacs (A. Luckhurst)	8735
9	Willow Cricketers (M. W. Barber)	8735
10	Gazza's Guys (C. Hawkins)	8737
11	Dawn's Dynamics (M. D. Shepherd)	8707
12	Neil Khan (J. Jones)	8677
13	Immy Five (J. J. Hunt)	8662
14	Maestros Cricket Club (M. Barnes)	8653
15	Neil Khan (J. Jones)	8653
16	Hum's Best (D. Gentry)	8656
17	Points Galore (D. Fenton)	8651
18	Panas (W. Davies)	8657
19	Star Wars 2 (J. A. H.)	8653
20	Meg's Eleven (S. Simmons)	8653
21	Rug Catchers (A. Rees)	8627
22	Ward's Whiskies (A. B. Ward)	8627
23	Three Lions (P. Johnson)	8610
24	Windy's Warriors (G. Miles)	8597
25	Dave's Dancers (J. Tait)	8591
26	Wickie Kings (D. Fenton)	8591

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
27	Lamar Old Boys (P. Tranter)	8587
28	Can. Eves (M. Marchant)	8583
29	Caroline C (A. Luckhurst)	8565
30	Barrow For Ever (R. Rees)	8567
31	Teslamans (J. Easton)	8546
32	Edna Woz (A. Luckhurst)	8546

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
33	Off Spenders (A. A. Minoy)	8538
34	Moss (H. Jones)	8535
35	Fantasy Formik (J. G. Cuthley)	8517
36	The 1997 XI (M. J. M. Hatcher)	8518
37	Whisper's Post (E. Evans)	8509
38	M. J. S. 1 (M. S. Jones)	8508
39	Tommy's Terrors (P. Tompkins)	8503
40	Doody's D (J. Poynton)	8500
41	The Funky Monkeys (A. Moss)	8478
42	Wendy's Wreath (N. Jones)	8464
43	43	8484
44	Sam Of Oaks (A. C. Welch)	8482
45	Friday Night 15 (S. McFarlane)	8478
46	Phenwood 3 (D. M. Carter)	8468
47	Off To A Good Start (J. Swales)	8465
48	Shadow Leader (D. Findlay)	8465
49	First Forward To Run (P. Rowland)	8457
50	50	8455
51	The Twins (S. Collinson)	8455
52	Colman's Balls (D. Blackburn)	8450
53	Kenneth Bowler (D. Fenton)	8438
54	Orchid M & O (N. Jones)	8437
55	SWAC 285 (J. Swales)	8434
56	The One And Only (S. Hatcher)	8430
57	Meatheads (A. D. J. M. J.)	8427

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
58	Spencer's XI (S. Samaroo)	9411
59	Kids's Cokers (A. N. Kubi)	9404
60	Stump's Eleven (M. Sharp)	9402
61	The Totini Tens (R. Newby)	9401
62	161 Fantasy Formik (J. G. Cuthley)	9401
63	Tony Boys (G. Jackson)	9387
64	Hedge's Grove (D. Payne)	9382
65	Wendy's Wreath (N. Jones)	9381
66	Wendy's Wreath (N. Jones)	9382
67	Ducka CC (P. Davis)	9378
68	Teddy For Bruce Be (—)	9377
69	The Runners (D. Bruce)	9376
70	The Wrens (D. Fenton)	9371
71	71	9365
72	Bearded Blunders (J. M. Brown)	9364
73	Orchid-Moon (B. J. M. J.)	9361
74	Orchid-Moon (B. J. M. J.)	9359

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
75	Aspen First XI (P. Edwards)	9357
76	Edward Rose (A. Luckhurst)	9357
77	S. R. S. In The Press (S. P. Varn)	9347
78	No More Frays Cut (P. Varn)	9346
79	Odoballs First XI (G. Buckland)	9336
80	Winds Fargo (S. H. Jones)	9336
81	Debi Release (S. Lamber)	9332
82	Diamond White (R. White)	9325
83	44-Jones Boys 2 (—)	9319
84	Dave's Dancers (D. Taggart)	9318
85	Bearded Boys (M. Woodley)	9317
86	Class Warriors 2 (S. King)	9316
87	Comely Road Hops (J. Hartfield)	9315
88	M. J. 2 (M. Soren)	9311
89	Marlin's Snoggers (—)	9302
90	Touch Not The Ball (G. MacDonald)	9298
91	Farwell's H. H. H. H. H.	9291
92	The Ginn Team (J. Svan)	9281
93	D. J. S. 2 (D. Fenton)	9258
94	Sawmills (R. Knowler)	9259
95	Coal And Chips Part P. Stebbings	9247
96	Spinnaker (I. De Silva)	9243
97	Waddy Waddy's XI (J. D. Wobberly)	9241
98	Alma Angels (A. Wood)	9241
99	— (R. Parnham)	9240

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the last week: the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by June 17. Overseas players are shown in bold type. Rising Stars in *italic*.

Player (no) Runs Wickets C/B St Total

Batsmen (001-148)

C. A. Sherratt (003)	596	125	0	0	721
C. W. J. Arney (004)	615	73	0	0	688
G. S. Bennett (005)	100	0	0	0	100
K. J. Barrett (006)	294	73	2	2	411
D. J. Beckford (007)	11	0	0	0	11
G. S. Bennett (008)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (009)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (010)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (011)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (012)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (013)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (014)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (015)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (016)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (017)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (018)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (019)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (020)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (021)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (022)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (023)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (024)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (025)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (026)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (027)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (028)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (029)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (030)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (031)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (032)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (033)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (034)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (035)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (036)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (037)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (038)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (039)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (040)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (041)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (042)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (043)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (044)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (045)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (046)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (047)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (048)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (049)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (050)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (051)	11	0	0	0	11
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D. J. Beckford (065)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (066)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (067)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (068)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (069)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (070)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (071)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (072)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (073)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (074)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (075)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (076)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (077)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (078)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (079)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (080)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (081)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (082)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (083)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (084)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (085)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (086)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (087)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (088)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (089)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (090)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (091)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (092)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (093)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (094)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (095)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (096)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (097)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (098)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (099)	11	0	0	0	11
D. J. Beckford (100)	11	0	0	0	11

TENNIS

Progress of Lee stalled by strength of opponent

By RICHARD HOBSON

HIS record as a junior suggests that Martin Lee has the latent talent to become the next British player to break into the top fifty ranked players in the world. Whether he is able to emulate his form in under-18 competitions on the senior circuit, though, depends on his response to the setbacks that will inevitably befall him.

There was plenty to learn from his 6-1, 6-1 defeat by Karol Kucera in the first round of the Nottingham Open yesterday, but Lee, 19, suggested afterwards that he was able to digest the lessons. Quite simply, he was overpowered by Kucera, a stronger and fresher Slovakian. He won just seven points from his own games against his opponent's service in a match that lasted 38 minutes.

Lee had risen 118 places to No 382 in the latest world rankings after his success in reaching the third round in the Stella Artois tournament

Miles MacLagan, the Great Britain No 10, completed a 6-4, 6-3 win over Dan Lobb, his compatriot, yesterday in the Wimbledon qualifying tournament at Roehampton. However, Colin Beecher, the British No 11, lost 6-0, 6-3 to Guillermo Canas, of Argentina, while Colin Bennett succumbed 7-5, 6-3 to Peter Tramacchi, of Australia.

at Queen's Club, where he lost to Goran Ivanisevic, and in emerging through the qualifying stages to reach the main draw here. On Monday he played two doubles qualifying matches and, despite extensive work on his fitness before playing at Queen's, he believes that a few more hours in the gymnasium before Wimbledon next week will be time well spent.

"I spent the two weeks before Queen's in the gym with virtually no tennis at all and that helped me enormously, but the match with Kucera showed that I still have to become more powerful to compete," Lee said. "Some of that will come naturally as I grow, so it is not a major problem. I will be working on improving my body strength, but not at the cost of overlooking weaknesses in my game."

"This has been a great week for me, but now there will be

pressure because people know a little bit more about me. It was difficult to come from the crowds at Queen's to the qualifying here, where there were two people watching, so I was pleased to come through."

Lee, a former world junior No 1 in singles and doubles, will face Nuno Marques, the experienced Portuguese player, at Wimbledon, having been given a wild card. Marques is ranked No 129 in the world, but has never progressed beyond the first round. "I have seen him play a couple of times and I am very, very happy with the draw," Lee said.

Kucera, his own fitness barely tested, will play Byron Black in the second round at Nottingham. Black beat Todd Woodbridge, the No 7 seed, in three sets, leaving the top quarter of the draw open after the defeat of Carlos Moya, the No 1 seed, on Monday.

Talk of Wimbledon dominated play on the second day, particularly during a rain-enforced interruption of an hour. Daniel Nestor, like Lee a qualifier, discovered that he will be facing Tim Henman next week, and proceeded to lose 6-1, 7-6 to Grant Stafford, of South Africa. "I am not that confident in my singles play," Nestor said. "I am thinking too much about small technical things and that is making it worse. I have nothing to lose against Tim in his own country so I will just swing away and hope for the best."

Chris Wilkinson, rarely serving at his best, lost to Marc-Kevin Gollmer, while Sandon Stolle earned a second round tie against Kenneth Carlsen, the conqueror of Marcelo Rios, when he overcame Arnaud Boetsch. Rios was merely the first seeded casualty of a tournament that is open in every sense. Jim Courier, the former world No 1, was taken to a third set by Johan van Herck and Gustavo Kuerten, the No 3 seed, hardly exuded confidence going into his tie against Greg Rusedski — which was justified when Rusedski, the British No 2, breezed through the first set, winning it 6-1 in 18 minutes.

Kuerten, the French Open champion and a beaten finalist in Bologna last weekend, announced that he will give a press conference in Hurlingham on Saturday — finals day in Nottingham.



Williams, to the rattle of beads in her hair, drives a forehand during her win yesterday

Williams makes her mark

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

BEING a Jehovah's Witness, Venus Williams does not celebrate birthdays, but she marked her 17th yesterday with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Chanda Rubin, her American compatriot, to advance to the second round of the Direct Line championships at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. Not bad for only her fourth competitive game on grass.

There are not many grass courts in Compton, in Los Angeles, where she grew up, nor even in Florida, where her family now lives, and she chose to play through the qualifiers in order to familiarise herself with the surface. It seems to have been successful.

"I suppose so," she said when asked if she now regards herself as a grass-court player. "I need to come to the net a little more. I never serve and volley that much; it really will help my game. Last time I played Chanda, she annihilated me. I knew I had to be more aggressive and I think the surface helped me a lot too."

Ranked No 79 in the world, a rise of 125 places since

December, Williams, at 6ft 2in, has been described as the Tiger Woods of tennis and her service sometimes bears comparison to his thunderous driving. She opened with an ace, won her first service games to love and was also prepared to slug it out at the net. The effort put into every shot brought a sharp escape of breath, although not on the scale of, for example, Monica Seles, and her game is hard on her racket, too succumbing during the match. Nevertheless, she showed a delicacy of touch in taking the ninth game before breaking Rubin to win the first set.

Yet it was not plain sailing. She was broken twice in the first set and once in the second, although broke back immediately on both occasions. "She served OK against me, which is her strength," Rubin said, "but not great."

Rubin, ranked No 26 and a finalist here two years ago, attracted less attention; despite her own recovery from a hand injury, but did not mind talking about her conqueror. "She hasn't played a lot of

tournaments, but everyone knows her, although they are still curious to see how she plays," she said. "As long as she is playing well, it's fitting that all the attention is on her. It's an interesting story."

Williams herself was visibly more comfortable discussing clothes than tennis. The silver-grey outfit that she sported may give Wimbledon officials heart failure, but they will be relieved to know that it also comes in white. The BBC sound crews could experience problems with the noise of her beaded locks. Opponents will have the service, a venomous two-handed backhand and a variety of other potential winning shots to think about.

Elsewhere, the only seed to fall was Mary Joe Fernandez, beaten by Natalie Tauziat, who defeated Rubin in the 1995 final. Shirin Amm Sidiq, the British No 2, lost in three sets to Ai Sugiyama, of Japan, while Jo Ward, the British qualifier, ranked No 353 in the world, failed to set up a second-round meeting with Monica Seles after losing 6-2, 7-5 to Naoko Sawamatsu.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

BARCELONA, Spain. Medley relay: 1st, USA (1:00.00); 2nd, Germany (1:00.00); 3rd, France (1:00.00); 4th, Great Britain (1:00.00). 100m: 1st, USA (9.84); 2nd, Germany (9.94); 3rd, France (10.04); 4th, Great Britain (10.14). 200m: 1st, USA (19.74); 2nd, Germany (19.84); 3rd, France (19.94); 4th, Great Britain (20.04). 400m: 1st, USA (49.44); 2nd, Germany (49.54); 3rd, France (49.64); 4th, Great Britain (49.74). 800m: 1st, USA (1:59.44); 2nd, Germany (1:59.54); 3rd, France (1:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (1:59.74). 1600m: 1st, USA (4:59.44); 2nd, Germany (4:59.54); 3rd, France (4:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (4:59.74). 3200m: 1st, USA (9:59.44); 2nd, Germany (9:59.54); 3rd, France (9:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (9:59.74). 6400m: 1st, USA (19:59.44); 2nd, Germany (19:59.54); 3rd, France (19:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (19:59.74). 12800m: 1st, USA (39:59.44); 2nd, Germany (39:59.54); 3rd, France (39:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (39:59.74). 25600m: 1st, USA (79:59.44); 2nd, Germany (79:59.54); 3rd, France (79:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (79:59.74). 51200m: 1st, USA (159:59.44); 2nd, Germany (159:59.54); 3rd, France (159:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (159:59.74). 102400m: 1st, USA (319:59.44); 2nd, Germany (319:59.54); 3rd, France (319:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (319:59.74). 204800m: 1st, USA (639:59.44); 2nd, Germany (639:59.54); 3rd, France (639:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (639:59.74). 409600m: 1st, USA (1279:59.44); 2nd, Germany (1279:59.54); 3rd, France (1279:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (1279:59.74). 819200m: 1st, USA (2559:59.44); 2nd, Germany (2559:59.54); 3rd, France (2559:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (2559:59.74). 1638400m: 1st, USA (5119:59.44); 2nd, Germany (5119:59.54); 3rd, France (5119:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (5119:59.74). 3276800m: 1st, USA (10239:59.44); 2nd, Germany (10239:59.54); 3rd, France (10239:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (10239:59.74). 6553600m: 1st, USA (20479:59.44); 2nd, Germany (20479:59.54); 3rd, France (20479:59.64); 4th, Great Britain (20479:59.74). 13107200m: 1st, USA (40959:59.44); 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I believe you, George. Thousands wouldn't

I am having a spot of bother with my so-called peer-group. Believing them, that is. I mean, William Hague must be lying about his age, that's obvious. But what about George Clooney, the silver-haired, twinkly-eyed star of *ER*, who is soon to play with Barry Norman (BBC) in the justly dropped fact that he was 35 into the conversation four times.

Four times? Methinks he doth protest too much.

Yes sir, 35 was the age to be, gurgled the much-older-looking Clooney in that dark brown voice that would get most 35-year-olds laughed at if they tried it. It was the perfect age to play the leading man, it meant you still had "great television hair" (not in Hague's case, but then he says he's 36) and you get to spoof Michelle Pfeiffer. Norman shifted uneasily in his chair, as he does every time La

Pfeiffer is mentioned, and made a token effort to change the subject. "Financially, do you actually still need to work?" Clooney thought not. "Hey, at 35 that's a great position to be in." Thank you, George, I think we got the message.

Presumably because this was *Film 97*, there was only token mention of *ER*, the television series that turned Clooney into a star. There was a brief clip of Dr Ross (Clooney) doing something clever with a hypodermic but no mention of an arrest-inducing close a fortnight ago. I am not convinced that Norman even knows who Nurse Hathaway is.

Instead we had all sorts of clips from films that I hadn't seen. This was partly because some have not come out yet, partly because I don't go to the cinema any more (well, if you watched television all day, would you go to the cinema for

fun?) and partly because when I did still go, Clooney was making films such as *Return of the Killer Tomatoes*.

"I tried to do as much bad television as possible so that other people didn't have to do it," he explained, showing that all those months at the Hugh Grant school of self-effacement had not been wasted. Acting ability counted for very little when it came to casting. It was presence that counted. "You are selling confidence, that's what people want to buy." It had, he admitted to Norman, taken him some years to realise that. But now, at 35... oh, please.

No mistaking the age Kevin Whately is supposed to be in *The Broker's Man* (BBC1). He's that age old enough to have parted company with both his wife and mistress, but young enough to nurse the hope of winning one or the other back. Old

REVIEW

Matthew Bond



enough to have two teenage children, but young enough to be working so hard that he hardly gets to see them. I think we can say we are on familiar ground.

Like every other actor who has left *Peak Practice*, Whately has clearly had enough of playing nice. But instead of going to Cambridge to play Dr Sam something, the renowned whistler, he opted for Jimmy Griffin, a former detective

turned insurance investigator. His job is to stop the insurance companies having to pay out (something I thought they were very good at anyway) either by recovering the "stolen" goods or by proving a claim is not legitimate. Had that chef really lost his sense of taste and smell? I'm not sure I could bear the suspense.

Actually, the insurance side of things was not too bad. The chef and his taste buds were just a comic subplot, the main story concerned the violent theft of a container-load of digital cameras. Now the thieves were offering to sell them back to the insurance company for a great deal less than their insured value... unless Griffin could stop them. Lots of electric guitar music indicated that this was exciting — and it was.

The problem was Griffin himself. He is not so much nasty as dull, and has a tiresome habit of

climbing on to ethical high horses when it is far from clear that they are his to climb on. "I'm not signing this off," he said. "I'm not signing this off." Given that his fee was 12 grand and the insurers were already a million down, I am not convinced that it was his call. But then, as I don't really know what "signing off" signifies, perhaps I should wait for part two before finally making up my mind. First impressions, however, are that Whately will have to be at his very best to turn this one into a winner.

Over on Channel 4, someone had come up with the promising idea of examining the sibling bond in *My Sister*. Unfortunately, after an encouraging opening few minutes when a small assortment of people waxes emotional about their sisters, that promising idea got lost. Perhaps that was inevitable. We all, after all, have different stories to tell.

Annie Paul, the director, chose to concentrate on just three, a decision which ensured that by the end we knew a great deal about the people involved, but which made it difficult to come up with generalisations. Furthermore, Paul had dealt at the extremes of her subject — the elder sister who became a surrogate mother to her younger brother and sisters while their parents' marriage broke down; the sisters estranged by the death of one parent and then brought back together 20 years later by the death of the other; and the woman still mourning the death of her sister more than 30 years on.

By the end, I knew a great deal about what happened to these families but next to nothing about the powerful forces that still bound them together. Perhaps some things, such as sibling bonds and George Clooney's age, are best left a mystery.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (33079)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (38437)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (595692)
- 9.20am Cheesecake Challenge: A romantic meal for two (3414876)
- 9.45am Killy (1) (3988963)
- 10.30am Ready, Steady, Cook! (1) (73437)
- 11.00am News (1) and weather (202925)
- 11.05am The Great Escape: Hammett in Tunisia (7957418)
- 11.35am Royal Ascot Preview of today's meeting (3436302)
- 12.00am News (1) and weather (1589050)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (1) (5798654)
- 12.35am Neighbours (1) (1) (4552470)
- 1.00pm News (1) and weather (33316)
- 1.30am Regional News and weather (15516741)
- 1.40am The Weather Show (3851178)
- 1.45am Royal Ascot Coverage of the 2.30 Jersey Stakes, 3.05 Queen Mary Stakes and 3.45 Coronation Stakes. Plus: fashions, coronations on BBC2 (4115924)
- 4.00pm Popday (5589463), 4.10pm Gadget Boy (5671589), 4.30pm Out of Tune (1) (5947050), 5.00pm Newsworld (1) (5858963), 5.10pm Blue Peter (1) (7226168)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (1) (1) (385673)
- 6.00pm News (1) and weather (857)
- 6.30am Regional News Magazine (437)
- 7.00am Antiques Roadshow: In 1992, Simon Bull valued a chronometer from the German fleet sunked at Scapa Flow while in Norway. Here, he discusses the history of the ship's clock (1) (1470)
- 7.30am Tomorrow's World: Howard Stablerford and Shahnaz Palakavran round off the series with a review of the year's reports (1) (321)
- 8.00am The National Lottery Live (1) (325383)
- 8.15pm Firefighters: On Merseyside, White Watch tackle a bedroom blaze started by an over-inquisitive five-year-old, before dealing with a mound of burning rubbish in an alleyway (1) (128944)
- 8.50pm Points of View (1) (583470)
- 9.00pm News (1) and weather (8505)
- 9.20pm National Lottery Update (788166)
- 9.30pm Backstage: Presence: A fight at a local pub triggers a spate of burglaries on a tough housing estate where the team are running a community policing project, and the finger of suspicion quickly falls on a notorious local family (1) (708215)
- 10.25pm An Inside Story Special: Nazi Gold: Exploring the role played by Switzerland during the Second World War (1) (8442437)
- 11.40pm Royal Ascot: The second day's highlights (448437)
- 12.00pm The Babe (1982) Biopic of baseball legend George "Babe" Ruth with John Goodman as the larger-than-life character, notorious for his over-indulgence in food, drink and women, yet famed for his status as a sportsman. Also with Kelly McGillis, Trini Alvarado and Bruce Boxleitner. Directed by Arthur Hiller (1) (812242) WALES: 12.00pm Welsh Questions (1) (12.30pm FILM: The Babe (251267) 2.20pm News (2814797)
- 1.50pm Weather (5842529)

VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus Codes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video Plus Codes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote. Tap in the Video Plus Code for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: The Birth of Calculus (3153302), 6.25pm Sequences (3102437), 6.50pm Beating the Morning Rush (1812147)
- 7.15pm See Hear: Breakfast News (1) and signing (1812147)
- 7.55pm Active (1) (4557645), 8.20pm Christopher Crocodile (1) (9862789), 8.25pm John and Friends (1389673), 8.35pm The Record (2579418)
- 9.00am A Passion for Angling (1) (3478708), 9.50pm Don't Be an Anorak! (1) (2571857), 10.00pm Teletubbies (1) (5955654)
- 10.35pm Death of a Scoundrel (1956, b/w) A charismatic Czech refugee ingratiate himself with wealthy women. With George Sanders and Zsa Zsa Gabor. Directed by Charles Martin (19602166)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (82673), 1.00pm Johnson and Friends (10258383)
- 1.10pm Adam's Rib (1949, b/w) George Cukor's classic war-of-the-sexes comedy with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn (6316012)
- 2.50pm News (2315079), 2.55pm Westminster (9018895), 3.55pm News (1) (398741)
- 4.00pm Royal Ascot: The Royal Hunt Cup over the Old Mile at 4.20 (2548037)
- 4.40pm Take a Meal With (4340321), 4.55pm Esther: Over-sunning (1) (5038789), 5.30pm Today's World (7203215)
- 6.00pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (1) (1) (671470)
- 6.45pm Cardiff Singer of the World (803302)
- 7.30pm Ardey: The Street of Doom: Account of how residents of a Northampton street became convinced that environmental factors were damaging their health when five children developed leukaemia, despite scientists' assurances that the so-called cluster was simply a chance in a million (1) (963)
- 8.00pm Call My Bluff (1) (5760)
- 8.30pm Yes, Prime Minister: Jim has his first encounter with the Foreign Office (1) (7895)
- 9.00pm Reputations: Hilary and Tenzing: Everest and After (1) (3789)
- 10.00pm International Athletics Highlights from tonight's Grand Prix meeting in Helsinki (5676)
- 10.30pm Newswatch with Kirsty Wark (1) (181215)
- 11.15pm Trial by Jury (3/3) (405983)
- 11.55pm Weather (348654)
- 12.00am The Midnight Hour (57890)
- 12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Acid Politics (60635), 1.30am Magnetic Fields in Space (84364), 2.00pm Night School: TV: Science (31585), 4.00pm Focus: English Heritage (29123), 4.30pm Unicorn in the Classroom (22880), 5.00pm Basic Skills: A Different Way of Doing Things (51762), 5.30pm-6.00pm Voluntary Matters: Managing People (75819)



Tenzing and Hilary (9.00pm)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (8374079)
- 9.25pm Supermarket Sweep (1) (1) (3422886)
- 9.55pm Regional News (1) (4116128)
- 10.00pm The Time, the Place (87215)
- 10.30pm This Morning (1) (65560708)
- 12.20pm Regional News (1) (1585234)
- 12.30pm News (1) and weather (4588895)
- 12.55pm Shortland Street (1) (4563586), 1.25pm Home and Away (1) (9076857), 1.50pm Afternoon Live (31120012), 2.20pm Vanessa (1) (1) (2662094), 2.50pm Afternoon Live (2263963)
- 3.20pm News (1) (3731692)
- 3.25pm Regional News (1) (3730963)
- 3.30pm Alphabet Castle (1) (3541050), 3.40pm Tots TV (1) (8497031), 3.50pm Oscar and Friends (1) (5120567), 4.20pm Tiny Toon Adventures (1) (5358418), 4.40pm Wavelength (1) (6173780)
- 5.10pm Look and Cook (1) (8456760)
- 5.40pm News (1) and weather (471609)
- 5.57pm Pollen Count (57794)
- 6.00pm Home and Away (1) (1) (583876)
- 6.25pm HTV Weather (738587)
- 6.30pm The West Tonight (1) (505)
- 7.00pm Emeraldale: Butch is heartbroken when he spies on Sophie (1) (6166)
- 7.30pm Coronation Street: Kevin faces a confrontation with a furious Sally (1) (789)
- 8.00pm A Touch of Frost: Fun Time for Swingers: When a gigolo is murdered, Frost discovers a sad and seedy world inhabited by lonely women who availed themselves of the gigolo's services (1) (1) Followed by Lottery Result (4895)
- 10.00pm News (1) and weather (50586)
- 10.30pm Regional News (1) (572673)



Branda Gilheoly as Gayle (10.40pm)

- 10.40pm CHOICE: Gayle's World: Branda Gilheoly in a new comedy series hosted by her alter ego Gayle Tuesday (1) (200588)
- 11.10pm Live at Jingle: A new series of stand-up comedy, featuring Sean Meo, Judith Lucy and Steve McGraw (1) (937588)
- 11.40pm Alfred Hitchcock Presents (800682)
- 12.10pm Searching for the Fifth Element (8325987)
- 12.35pm Movie Club (7408703)
- 1.10pm Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (2057067)
- 1.30pm Can't Buy Me Love (1987) with Patrick Dempsey, Amanda Peterson and Courtney Gains. A young teenage misfit sets out to win the object of his youthful desires — a popular high-school cheerleader. Directed by Steve Rash (222906)
- 3.15pm Jones and Jerry (1) (4071828)
- 3.35pm Not Fade Away (1) (9245971)
- 4.30pm The Time, the Place (1) (26516)
- 5.00pm Coronation Street (1) (1) (5708)
- 5.30pm News (2345)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (4563586)
- 1.50pm-5.40pm Shortland Street (8456760)
- 6.25pm-7.00pm Central News (128963)
- 11.40pm Swift Justice (151418)
- 12.40pm Dating the Enemy (5702258)
- 1.40pm Bankers (2128890)
- 2.40pm The Chart Show (8020797)
- 3.30pm Comedy Central (24800)
- 4.30pm Central Jobfinder '97 (8858181)
- 5.20pm Asian Eye (4288529)

WESTCOUNTRY

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm Home and Away (5775383)
- 1.20pm-1.50pm Emeraldale (23025470)
- 5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (8456760)
- 6.00pm-7.00pm Westcountry Live (94418)
- 11.40pm Swift Justice (86654)

MERIDIAN

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (4563586)
- 5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (8456760)
- 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (925)
- 6.30pm-7.00pm Spirit of the South: Waterlilies (505)
- 11.10pm Truly, Madly, Weekly (937588)
- 11.40pm The Bottom Line (900692)
- 12.10pm Campus Cops (8325987)
- 5.00pm FreeScreen (51708)

ANGLIA

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (4563586)
- 5.10pm-5.40pm Shortland Street (8456760)
- 6.25pm-7.00pm Anglia News (128963)
- 11.40pm Weekly World News (900682)
- 12.10pm Alfred Hitchcock Presents (8325987)

S4C

- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (26789)
- 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (21147)
- 9.00pm Bewitched (80963)
- 9.30pm Ysgollon (512963)
- 12.00pm House to House (57499)
- 12.30pm Ricki Lake (77741)
- 1.00pm Slit Melthrin (10267031)
- 1.15pm Lisabeth (10262586)
- 1.30pm Film: Spring in Park Lane (58562296)
- 1.30pm The Dingles (373050)
- 3.15pm The Hoarder (1851741)
- 3.30pm Collectors' Lot (385)
- 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (418)
- 4.30pm Dosh (306)
- 5.00pm Pump (3496876)
- 5.15pm Fifi (8571708)
- 5.30pm Countdown (654)
- 6.00pm Newyddion (477505)
- 6.05pm Heno (831654)
- 6.35pm Stan & Stan (746147)
- 7.00pm Pabot y Cwm (841925)
- 7.25pm Gert (223302)
- 8.00pm Dymod Gyd: Lilian Williams (598)
- 9.30pm Newyddion (2963)
- 9.30pm Spin City (1215)
- 9.30pm Roseanne (97505)
- 10.00pm Brookside (497128)
- 10.35pm ER (867050)
- 11.30pm Cybill (74741)
- 12.00pm Under the Moon (642884)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (26789), 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (21147), 9.00pm Bewitched (1) (80963)
- 9.30pm School: Geography Junction 9.45pm Book Box 10.00pm Stage Two Science 10.15pm TV-Franchise 10.45pm GNN: It's For You 11.07pm Lost Animals 11.15pm The Mix 11.30pm Rat-a-Tat-Tat 11.45pm Backdraks (512963)
- 12.00pm House to House (57499), 12.30pm Caroline in the City (1) (77741), 1.00pm Springhill (1) (24234)
- 1.30pm On Land, at Sea and in the Air (3815586)
- 1.35pm Drogwynn (1946) Gothic melodrama starring Vincent Price, Gene Tierney and Walter Huston. A murderous landowner takes an unsuspecting young bride. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (1) (45645128)
- 3.30pm Collectors' Lot (1) (385), 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (1) (418), 4.30pm Countdown (1) (654), 4.55pm Ricki Lake: Co-habiting nightmares (1) (5023857), 5.30pm Pet Rescue (1) (1) (854)
- 6.00pm Party of Five: Bailey decides to move back home and Sarah meets somebody new (1) (87418)
- 6.50pm Fresh Pop (433321)
- 7.00pm Channel 4 News (1) (699296)
- 7.50pm Today in Wymott Prison: A long-term prisoner speaks (1) (640944)
- 8.00pm Brookside: Gladys forces Mick to face up to the reality of her illness. Ron employs Danny in a bid to beat his rival and Rachel and Christian make their wedding plans (1) (5688)
- 8.30pm Planet Showbiz: Mark Laman takes another stroll through the bizarre life and times of America (1) (194147)



Roseanne and family (9.05pm)

- 9.05pm CHOICE: Roseanne: The very last full-length episode of Roseanne. While welcoming Harris Conner Healy, David and Darlene's baby, into the household, Roseanne reflects on the past and the future (1) (236147)
- 10.00pm ER: Hell and High Water: The most popular episode of the medical drama in a recent vote. On the way home from work, Dr Ross pulls over to save a young boy trapped in a floodwater. With George Clooney (1) (754925)
- 10.55pm Friends: The One With Barry and Mindy's Wedding: Rachel is bridesmaid at her best friend and former fiancé's wedding. Monica and Richard's relationship is jeopardized by the subject of children (1) (100334)
- 11.25pm Cheers: Rebecca and Sam manage to lose an executive's pet, Buster, while house-sitting (1) (1) (222708)
- 12.00pm Under the Moon: Late night sports show with Danny Kelly. Includes Transworld Sport (642884)
- 5.25pm Backdate (1) (4471364)

CHANNEL 5

- CHANNEL 5 is now broadcasting on transponder NO 68 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder NO 68 are: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00 am 5 News Early (2303037)

- 7.30am Hawakazeo (3214215), 8.00am Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8423215), 8.30am WideWorld: Received pronunciation and its relation to class, power and privilege (8423588)
- 9.00am Exclusive (5242942), 10.00pm Exclusive (1) (1313833), 10.30pm Fame and Fortune (1) (8435050)

11.00pm Leesa (1555418), 11.50pm Double Espresso (22444845), 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (8426302), 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (7517483)

1.00pm 5 News Update (52684321), 1.05pm Sunset Beach (1) (6590557), 2.00pm 5's Company (814785)

3.30pm The Man Between (1953, b/w) James Mason, Claire Bloom and Hildegarde Neff in a spy drama set in postwar Berlin. Directed by Carol Reed (8611789)

5.25pm 5's Company — Late Extra (9662778), 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (1784347)

6.00pm White (1) (750805)

6.30pm Family Affairs: Peter feels the brunt of the protesters' anger and Duncan regrets letting out his secret (1) (7993302)

7.00pm Exclusive (602437)

7.30pm Natural Natives: Blame it on the Badger: The daily life of a badger and her cubs (1) (7985588)

8.00pm The Great Garden Game from Somerleyton Hall, near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Head gardener Bob Couls asks the two teams to prune 90 metres of apple trees (1) (6048857)

8.30pm 5 News (1) (605092)

9.00pm Iron Eagle (1986) with Louis Gossett Jr, Jason Gedrick and Tim Thomerson. Thriller about a teenage pilot who mounts an audacious rescue mission to find his father. Directed by Sidney J. Furie (618588)

11.00pm The Jack Docherty Show with guests Melvyn Bragg, Julie Walters, Graham Gooch and Greg Matthews (6686031)

11.45pm Tilt and Filte Medical: guest hosted by Tony Slattery. With guests Janet Street-Porter and Richard Vancelli (1) (5685505)

12.15pm Live and Dangerous: Sports mega-zine hosted by Tommy Boyd and David Macdonald. Includes a live commentary from US baseball's Major League (545109)

4.40pm Prisoner: Cell Block K (302384), 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (1) (479787)

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